

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Vol. 31, Issue 8
SEPTEMBER 2023



Sweet Virginia

Smitten-bred hero Gigante captures
Secretariat Stakes at Colonial Downs

COUNTRY LIFE FARM: A LEGACY OF SUCCESS

THE MARYLAND HORSE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
MARYLAND HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION



RAISE YOU, ch.f. by Case Ace—Lady Glory, bred by Country Life Farm, and one of the leading two-year-old fillies of the year; winner of the Polly Drummond and Colleen Stakes and the New Jersey Futurity.

Vol. 13, No. 8



AUGUST 1948

Country Life success at Saratoga began in the 1930s. Pictured above is a filly bred by Country Life, by Case Ace out of Lady Glory. Sold in the 1947 Saratoga yearling sale for \$7,500, and named **RAISE YOU**, she won the 1948 Polly Drummond Stakes and New Jersey Futurity. She became the dam of 1963 Champion 2YO and breed-shaping sire **RAISE A NATIVE**, the sire of **MR. PROSPECTOR**.



BREEDING

\$775,000 Top-priced Maryland-bred offering at The Saratoga Sale in August was Country Life's Gun Runner filly out of Starr of Quality. We purchased the dam for \$72,000 at the 2020 Keeneland November Mixed Sale.



Peter Bloom, CT; Tim Burr, MA; Kevin Edwards, MD; Joe Fonte, MD; Guidera/McKenney Equine LLC, VA/FL; High Peak Farm LLC, KY; Harold Rottman, MD; David & Diana Sedney, VA; Mike Stone, VA; Country Life, MD.

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ON ALL FRONTS – 90 YEARS AND COUNTING

RACING

Country Life Farm's GALILEI won the \$125,000
Brookmeade Stakes at Colonial Downs in July



Cordy Photography

GALILEI races for a Country Life partnership comprised of: Cape Fear Thoroughbreds, NC; Country Life, MD; John and Marcia Courson, AZ; Robert Goldman, FL; Guidera/McKenney Equine LLC, VA/FL; Dave Johnson, TX; Robert Kern, DE; Frank Morgan, MD; Harold Rottman, MD; Mike Stone, VA.



Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

— Set List —

Virginia-bred wins on Virginia's biggest day

When Churchill Downs Inc. closed Arlington Park and moved the Chicago track's signature turf races to Virginia's Colonial Downs, nobody could have predicted a Virginia-bred would win the Secretariat Stakes. But that's what happened. By Joe Clancy. Page 24

A day in the life at a retirement farm

Their racing days have long since passed, but the horses at the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation's sanctuary farm in Front Royal, Va., are loved, cared for and fussed over by two dedicated women. By Eliza McGraw. Page 28

Finding his calling as a race-caller

Charles Town announcer Paul Espinosa Jr. brings a racing background to his job (landed in part by entering a contest on something of a whim). By John Piassek. Page 38

Monmouth Park Trackside: The Haskell

Kentucky Derby winner Mage showed up, but couldn't handle California's Geaux Rocket Ride in New Jersey's Grade 1 test for 3-year-olds. By Cindy Deubler. Page 46

Laurel Park Trackside: Little big time

Trainers Marya Montoya and Robin Graham capture summer 3-year-old stakes with rising stars. By John Piassek. Page 50

Steeplechase Times: Murphy's Law

No steeplechase trainer was having a better summer than Cyril Murphy, who won with four consecutive starters owned by Irv and Diane Naylor at Colonial Downs and Saratoga. By Joe Clancy. Page 56

On our cover: Virginia-bred Gigante digs in late to prevail in the Secretariat Stakes-G2 at Colonial Downs in August. *Photo by Coady Photography*

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Midlantic Fall Yearlings



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November 24

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3YO & Up, 7 furlongs

\$75,000 POLITELY 3YO & Up, Fillies and Mares, 6 furlongs

December 2

\$100,000 MD JUVENILE 2YO, 7 furlongs

\$100,000 MD JUVENILE FILLY CHAMPIONSHIP

2YO, Fillies, 7 furlongs



JIM MCKAY

Maryland Million Day 2023

OCTOBER 14 • LAUREL PARK



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Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Volume 31, Issue 8

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Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred (ISSN 1056-3245) is owned and published monthly with the exception of July by the Maryland Horse Breeders Association, 321 Main Street, Reisterstown, MD 21136. (410) 252-2100; Fax (888) 616-9797. Subscription rate \$36 per year. Subscription rate outside the U.S. \$91 per year (surface mail), payable by U.S. money order or by bank draft payable in U.S. funds. Canadian GST No. 130277759; C.P.C. IPM No. 0956988. Subscription price included in annual membership dues to the Maryland Horse Breeders Association.

Periodicals postage paid at Lutherville-Timonium, Md. 21093 and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred, 321 Main St., Reisterstown, MD 21136.

Single copies: \$5 current issue, plus \$4 postage and handling.

\$15 Stallion Directory (December issue);

\$15 Statistical Review (March issue), plus \$5 postage and handling. Maryland residents add 6% sales tax.

Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred is mailed to paid subscribers; to licensed owners and trainers in the eight-state region; and to active members of participating breeder associations in the region.

Printed by The Lane Press,
Burlington, VT
Printed in the U.S.A.

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Got a
Maryland-sired
horse in your stable?



JIM McKAY Maryland Million Day 2023

OCTOBER 14 • LAUREL PARK

Horses by these stallions, who were conceived in Maryland and fully nominated/certified to the Maryland Million program, are eligible to run in Maryland Million races.

Aaron's Way	Irish War Cry
Admiral Alex	Ken Doll
Alliance	Kendalls Bear
Baltimore Bob	Kobe's Back
Bandbox	La Reine's Terms
Barbados	Lion Hearted
Biblical	Long River
Blofeld	Louis Quatorze
Bourbon Courage	Madefromlucky
Buffum	McKendree
Bullsbay	Modern Cowboy
Cage Fighter	Mojave Moon
Cal Nation	Mosler
Cherokee's Boy	Nicanor
Cuba	No Never No More
Dance With Ravens	Norumbega
Deputy Storm	Not Abroad
Despite the Odds	Not For Love
Divining Rod	Orientate
Dortmund	Outflanker
E Dubai	Pass You Bye Bye
Editorial	Petionville
Elusive Charlie	Plan
Etched	Port Vila (FR)
First Mondays	Private Scandal
Fleet Foot	Que Man
Force the Pass	Redeemed
Freedom Child	Rock Slide
Friesan Fire	Same Day Delivery
Gandhi	Scipion
Gators N Bears	Seville (GER)
Giacomo	Showing Up
Golden Lad	Standing Room Only
Great Notion	Street Magician
Greek Sun	Super Ninety Nine
Hangover Kid	Trial Prep
Heaven's Glory (JPN)	Tritap
Holy Boss	Unbridled Mate
Hunters Bay	Unfettered
Imagining	

The above list shows nominated stallions with horses of racing age. Stallion must have been nominated for the specific year the horse was conceived. Some stallions listed here may not be eligible for every year.

PRE-ENTRY DEADLINE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2023

\$150K Maryland Million Classic* Three-year-olds & up, 1 1/4 mi. No Lasix.

\$125K Maryland Million Turf* Three-year-olds & up, 1 1/4 mi., turf. No Lasix.

\$125K Maryland Million Ladies* Fillies & mares, 3-year-olds & up, 1 1/4 mi., turf. No Lasix.

\$100K Maryland Million Distaff* Fillies & mares, 3-year-olds & up, 7 fur. No Lasix.

\$100K Maryland Million Sprint* 3-year-olds & up, 6 fur. No Lasix.

\$100K Maryland Million Lassie* Fillies, 2-year-olds, 6 fur. No Lasix.

\$100K Maryland Million Nursery* Two-year-olds, 6 fur. No Lasix.

\$100K Maryland Million Turf Sprint* 3-year-olds & up, 5 1/2 fur. No Lasix.

\$50K Maryland Million and/or Registered Maryland-Bred Turf Starter Handicap 3-year-olds & up, who have started for a claiming price of \$16,000 or less since October 23, 2022, 1 1/4 mi., turf. First preference to Maryland Million-certified horses.

\$50K Maryland Million and/or Registered Maryland-Bred Turf Distaff Starter Handicap Fillies & mares, 3-year-olds & up, who have started for a claiming price of \$16,000 or less since October 23, 2022, 1 1/4 mi., turf. First preference to Maryland Million-certified horses.

\$40K Maryland Million and/or Registered Maryland-Bred Starter Handicap 3-year-olds & up, who have started for a claiming price of \$10,000 or less since October 23, 2022, 7f. First preference to Maryland Million-certified horses.

\$40K Maryland Million and/or Registered Maryland-Bred Distaff Starter Handicap Fillies and mares, 3-year-olds & up, who have started for a claiming price of \$10,000 or less since October 23, 2022, 7f. First preference to Maryland Million-certified horses.

*For horses certified to Maryland Million Ltd. Registered Maryland-breds that are not Maryland Million-sired will be able to pre-enter and race ONLY if the race has less than eight (8) Maryland Million-sired entries. SEE PRE-ENTRY BOOK FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS.

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— The Starting Gate —

Say It Again

“When things don’t go your way, the hardest thing to do, the best thing to do, is say nothing.”

Trainer Cyril Murphy, about training horses (and a few other things)

“Horses just do better here. You don’t have to do anything with them, they just do better.”

Trainer Arch Kingsley, on the difference between summer training in South Carolina and summer training at Saratoga

“I’m in Walmart, do you need anything?”

Fasig-Tipton’s Paget Bennett, taking an interview call

“It’s a superstitious thing; I put my head down and didn’t look until she went past the reserve. When I looked up, pretty soon the board said 750 and I had to check my book to make sure it was still her in the ring.”

Country Life Farm’s Mike Pons, on selling a \$775,000 Maryland-bred Gun Runner filly at Saratoga

“The thing that always impresses me about the offspring of broodmares is soundness.”

Dr. Tom Bowman, who has been breeding horses for 50 years, on farm mare Talkin Smack, whose daughter Always Talking made 50 starts

Names of the Month

Longworth. Chanceland Farm and Wayne Harrison’s 3-year-old Maryland-bred gelding is by Mr Speaker. Nicholas Longworth was the United States Speaker of the House from 1925-31. The Longworth House Office Building was named for him in 1962.

Irish Warlock. Plum Tree Stable’s 3-year-old Maryland-bred gelding, bred by James Thames, is by Irish War Cry out of Abracadabra.

Margarita Sunset. Javier Contreras’ 2-year-old filly, bred in Virginia by Ollie Figgins Jr., is by Golden Years out of Daiquiri.

Go Figure

4 Consecutive winners sent out by Maryland-based steeplechase trainer Cyril Murphy in July and August. He won a Colonial Downs maiden hurdle with Gold Charm July 14, Saratoga’s A.P. Smithwick Memorial-G1 with Belfast Banter July 19, Saratoga’s Jonathan Kiser Novice Stakes with McTigue Aug. 2 and the Randolph D. Rouse Stakes at Colonial Downs with Gold Charm on Aug. 11. Like Murphy, the winners were bred in Ireland.

57 Winning percentage of trainer Lilli Kurtinecz during the early part of the Colonial Downs meeting. Four of her seven starters won through Aug. 12.

2 Horses with a nation leading seven wins (through Aug. 13) this year trained by Anthony Farrior. Dulcimer Dame had won seven of nine starts and Divine Fashion had won seven of 12.

4,028 Wins (through Aug. 12) for trainer Jamie Ness. He reached the 4,000 mark when Sing Scat won the first race at Laurel Park July 16. Ness saddled his first runners in 1999 and has topped 300 in a single season four times.

2023 DE CERTIFIED & STAKES ACTION!

RACE NAME	SEX & AGE	DISTANCE & SURFACE	PURSE	ELIGIBILITY REQUEST DUE	ADMIN FEES	RUN DATE
DE CERTIFIED						
Small Wonder	F 2 yo	6 Furlongs	\$100,000	9/13/2023	\$750	9/27/2023
First State	2 yo	6 Furlongs	\$100,000	9/13/2023	\$750	9/27/2023
Tax Free Distaff	F&M 3&Up	6 Furlongs	\$100,000	9/13/2023	\$750	9/28/2023
New Castle	3&Up	6 Furlongs	\$100,000	9/13/2023	\$750	9/28/2023

STAKES RACE NAME	SEX & AGE	DISTANCE & SURFACE	PURSE	NOMINTION DATE	NOMINATION FEE	RUN DATE
Cape Henlopen (L)	3&Up	One Mile 1/2 (T)	\$200,000	9/2/2023	\$100	9/16/2023
White Clay Creek (BT)	F 2 yo	One Mile	\$100,000	9/30/2023	FREE	10/13/2023
Rocky Run (BT)	2 yo	One Mile	\$100,000	9/30/2023	FREE	10/14/2023



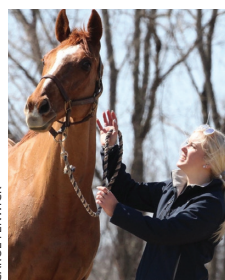
♠♦♥♣
DELAWARE PARK
 CASINO & RACING

— The Starting Gate —

Milestones

Selected:

For the 2023-25 Godolphin Flying Start racing management and leadership program, Mid-Atlantic residents Daisy Fenwick and Harper McVey. The women were selected for a class of 12 from 1,500 international applicants. Fenwick, 23, is the



Daisy Fenwick

daughter of Peter and Amy Fenwick and grew up in Maryland steeplechase country. She graduated from Cornell

University last

year and has worked a variety of racing jobs including stints in horsemen's relations

with the New York Racing Association, with the Breeders' Cup, with trainer Ian

Wilkes and with bloodstock agent Mike McMahon. McVey, 26, graduated from the Pratt Institute in New York in 2020 with a degree in communications design with a focus in advertising and art. For the past two-plus years, she has worked for the National Steeplechase Association as an assistant to the director of racing Bill Gallo. McVey's horse background includes time with trainer Tom



Harper McVey

Proctor at Fair Hill Training Center and working with retired racehorses. Her father Joe was an assistant to trainer Dr. John R.S. Fisher. Godolphin Flying Start is a two-year, full-time program that specializes in the international Thoroughbred racing and breeding industry. The newest class began at Kildangan Stud in Ireland in August, with phases in the United Kingdom, United States, Australia and Dubai.

Chosen:

As the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association's member of the month for August, Pennsylvania owner/breeder Lizzie Merryman. She is the breeder of 2022 Breeders' Cup winner and multiple Grade 1 stakes winner Caravel, a now 6-year-old mare who won the Grade 1 Jaipur Stakes at Belmont Park June 10. Racing for Merryman as breeder/owner/trainer, Caravel won seven of her first nine starts in 2020 and 2021, including stakes at Presque Isle Downs, Pimlico Race Course and Monmouth Park. Merryman sold 75 percent of the Pennsylvania-bred to Bobby Flay in 2021 in part due to a cancer diagnosis and Caravel was transferred to trainer Graham Motion after winning the Grade 3 Caress Stakes at Saratoga for Merryman. In November 2021, Caravel sold for \$500,000 at Fasig-Tipton and joined trainer Brad Cox's barn for owners Qatar Racing, Marc Detampel and Madaket Stables.

Caravel won five stakes in 2022, topped by the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint-G1 at Keeneland, and opened 2023 with three consecutive stakes victories before finishing fourth in Saratoga's Troy Stakes-G3 Aug. 5.

Inducted:

To the Maryland-bred Thoroughbred Hall of Fame, Ben's Cat and Mountain Dew. Though they raced in different eras, and in wildly different specialties, the geldings delighted legions of fans and are fitting inductees to the Hall, voted on by a committee of Maryland racing industry members and coordinated by the Maryland Horse Breeders Association and Maryland Racing Media Association. During eight years of competition, Ben's Cat became a local legend and a national treasure for breeder/owner/trainer King T. Leatherbury. The nearly black son of Parker's Storm Cat and Leatherbury's homebred mare Twofox didn't make his first start until age 4 after suffering a broken pelvis at 2. By the time he retired in 2017, Ben's Cat was the all-time leader among Maryland-breds by state-bred championship titles, 17 in all, including four consecutive Horse of the Year crowns. He recorded a state-bred record 26 stakes wins and earned \$2,643,782. He started eight times in the Mister Diz Stakes, winning six, won the Jim McKay Turf Sprint on Preakness weekend five times, and won multiple graded stakes. In 2017,



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— The Starting Gate —

Milestones



Maryland-breds Ben's Cat (above) and Mountain Dew are the 2023 inductees to the Maryland Thoroughbred Hall of Fame.



he was awarded the Secretariat Vox Populi Award, chosen by voters from around the world. Janon Fisher Jr.'s Mountain Dew was a star foxhunter before switching to timber racing in the early 1960s. At age 6, the son of *Hunters Moon IV and Fisher's homebred War Admiral mare Laelia launched a Maryland Hunt Cup career unequaled in longevity. In eight starts, he recorded three Hunt Cup wins (1962, 1965 and 1967) with

rider Janon Fisher III and was second to National Museum of Racing Hall of Famer Jay Trump in the 1963, 1964 and 1966 runnings. In his Hunt Cup debut in 1961 Mountain Dew finished third. When attempting a record fourth Hunt Cup win in 1968, he was injured at the 19th of 22 fences while leading. Mountain Dew started 24 times in sanctioned timber races and never fell. In his only flat start (at 3) he exited with an injury. Mountain Dew holds the record of winning six Maryland Grand Nationals in eight starts and placing in the other

two. After he recovered from his 1968 injury, he went back to life as a foxhunter. An induction ceremony is planned for Timonium Race Course Sept. 2. The Hall of Fame was initiated in 2013 to celebrate the excellence of state-bred Thoroughbred horses and debuted with an inaugural class of 12. There are now 33 members. Ben's Cat and

Mountain Dew join Awad, Broad Brush, Caesar's Wish, Challedon, Cigar, Concern, Conniver, Dave's Friend, Deputed Testimony, Devil's Bag, El Gran Senor, Find, Gallorette, Heavenly Cause, Jameela, J. O. Tobin, Kauai King, Little Bold John, Politely, Safely Kept, Smoke Glacken, Social Outcast, Star de Naskra, Twixt, Vertex, What a Summer and Youth and steeplechasers Elkridge, Good Night Shirt, Jay Trump and Tuscalee.

THE RACING BIZ

The Independent Voice for Mid-Atlantic Racing and Breeding

Pimlico to host September meet: The Maryland Racing Commission approved a 9-day September meet at Pimlico even as plans to close the track for training come into focus. Frank Vespe reports.

"What everybody dreams of" – Maryland farms hit Saratoga sale: The Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale of select yearlings represented a milestone for one Maryland farm and showcased a new dimension for another. Teresa Genaro reports.

Colonial Downs-Arlington Park connection lives on: The Grand Slam of Grass once connected Colonial Downs and Arlington Park. When the Secretariat Stakes moved to Colonial, the connection lives on, writes Nick Hahn.

Plan ahead and plenty of water as riders, trainers beat the heat: As summer heat canceled races, trainers and riders told how they beat the heat, reported Ted Black.

Daniel Centeno still finding the winner's circle: Mike Valiante catches up with jockey Daniel Centeno who, at 51, shows no signs of slowing down as he is still winning races in bunches and ranks among the leaders in the Delaware Park standings.

Backtracks – Caveat's late arrival: The late-running Maryland-bred Caveat finished second or third in seven stakes. Fortunately, he saved his very best for last.

Never Compromise on the rise: West Virginia-bred Never Compromise has won four straight and six of seven, and the Ollie Figgins trainee may soon try stakes company, reports Black.

FT MIDLANTIC FALL YEARLINGS OCT. 2-3 • TIMONIUM

FILLIES

ALWAYS DREAMING—Costa Del Sol KY-bred
ASTERN (Aus)—Dance Lesson MD-bred
BLOFELD—Hashtag Selfie MD-bred/MM
CATALINA CRUISER—Head for the Shore MD-bred
CROSS TRAFFIC—Our Miss Bop WV-bred
CUPID—Moon Cat Edie MD-bred
JIMMY CREED—Rowdy Woman MD-bred
LIAM'S MAP—Missy Rules MD-bred
MADEFROMLUCKY—Iflookscouldkill MD-bred/MM
MADEFROMLUCKY—Meadow Gem MD-bred/MM
MO TOWN—Erzulie Dantor KY-bred
MO TOWN—So Charming MD-bred
MOSLER—Belle Of Camden MD-bred/MM
MOSLER—Rotate MD-bred/MM
OMAHA BEACH—Fifteen Moons MD-bred
SHARP AZTECA—Starvista WV-bred
SPEIGHTSTER—Preying Mantis MD-bred
THOUSAND WORDS—The Great Griffter KY-bred
UNCLE LINO—Level With Me MD-bred/MM

COLTS

ACCELERATE—Tiger Lotus NY-bred
ANCHOR DOWN—Rehab MD-bred
BLOFELD—Mischief Music MD-bred/MM
BOLT D'ORO—Laura's Moon MD-bred
BOLT D'ORO—Lunar Rille MD-bred
CUPID—Rough Water MD-bred
DIVINING ROD—E Dubai's Humor MD-bred/MM
DIVINING ROD—Amber Empress MD-bred/MM
DIVINING ROD—Reappearance MD-bred/MM
FRIESAN FIRE—Annie Boo Boo MD-bred/MM
GOLDEN LAD—Stonerageous MD-bred/MM
GORMLEY—Carmaletta KY-bred
GREAT NOTION—Elusive Gift MD-bred/MM
HOLY BOSS—Sassy Love MD-bred/MM
IMAGINING—Battle Creek Lady MD-bred/MM
LEOFRIC—Carlisle Belle NY-bred
MADEFROMLUCKY—Stormy Love Affair MD-bred/MM
MALIBU MOON—Basedonatruestory MD-bred
MOSLER—Belle Vlada (IRE) MD-bred/MM
MOSLER—Keep Right MD-bred/MM
MOSLER—Voltairine NY-bred/MM
PAYNTER—Spring Run MD-bred
PRACTICAL JOKE—Flip The Switch MD-bred
TIZ THE LAW—Sweet Invention KY-bred
UNCLE LINO—Picnic Party MD-bred
UPTOWNCHARLYBROWN—Nasty Nemesis PA-bred
WAR DANCER—Sensationista MD-bred
WORLD OF TROUBLE—Hiding MD-bred

2023 SUCCESS STORIES REIGHTLER-SOLD



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Megan Fadlovich



FREE SAILIN
SW of \$235,914

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Regional-breds sell at Fasig-Tipton Saratoga

Topped by a \$775,000 Maryland-bred Gun Runner filly, eight Mid-Atlantic-bred yearlings sold at Fasig-Tipton's record-setting selected yearlings sale at Saratoga Springs, N.Y., Aug. 7-8. The Gun Runner filly, consigned by Bluegrass Thoroughbred Services for Country Life Farm, sold as Hip 174 on the second night on a bid by Solis/Litt Bloodstock. She was produced by the First Dude mare Starr of Quality, a \$72,000 purchase by Country Life at Keeneland November in 2020. She will join the racing stable of LNJ Foxwoods.

The price was a record for a Country Life-bred horse at public auction.

Other Maryland-breds at Saratoga included a \$275,000 Maclean's Music colt out of Chosen Venture purchased by Barry Berkelhammer for the Maryland-based Hillwood Stable of Ellen Charles. Bred by Matt Dorman's Determined Stud and sold by Scott Mallory, the dark bay colt is from the family of Hall of Famer Wise Dan. Dorman bought the unraced dam for \$70,000 as a yearling in 2019. St. Elias Stable bought a Violence colt from Mallory and Determined for \$230,000. Determined also sold two Kentucky-bred yearlings – an Authentic—Southern Ring colt for \$525,000 and a Quality Road—Ygritte filly for \$230,000.

Three Pennsylvania-breds sold at Saratoga, topped by a \$300,000 Justify colt consigned by Warrendale Sales and purchased by Destin Heath as agent for Ian Ritchie. Breeder Blackstone Farm sold the colt, out of the Bernardini mare Wembley, as a weanling. A Blackstone-bred Justify filly out of Mahkama brought \$210,000 as a private sale through Warrendale. Taylor Made Sales sold a Bolt d'Oro—Lovely Syn filly, another bred by Blackstone and a half-sister to multiple stakes winner Love in the Air, for \$290,000 to Legion Bloodstock as agent for Hoolie Racing. Lovely Syn was a \$50,000 Blackstone purchase in 2017.



Country Life Farm's Gun Runner filly topped the Mid-Atlantic breds at Saratoga.

Two of the three Virginia-breds at the sale topped \$300,000, paced by a Not This Time—Winter filly bred by Ann Mudge Backer's Smitten Farm for \$385,000. Taylor consigned the gray filly, who went to Sean Perl Bloodstock. Trainer Cherie DeVaux spent \$350,000 to buy a Constitution—Ellyb colt bred by Audley Farm Equine and consigned by Vinery Sales, for Belladonna Racing. Audley sold the colt for \$225,000 as a weanling. ■



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N O V 3 & 4



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SCAN TO NOMINATE



Kantharos filly tops June 2-year-old sale



FASIG-TIPTON PHOTO / Z

Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's June 2-year-old sale at Timonium, Md., won't make anyone forget the company's May sale, but you have to start somewhere and the sale showcased one constant in racing at the moment – there is plenty of demand.

"We ran out of horses before we ran out of buyers that had registered," said Fasig-Tipton's Paget Bennett. "People want to buy horses."

Seventy-nine horses went through the ring with 59 selling for a gross of \$2,541,000, an average of \$43,068 and a median of \$26,000. Again, that's a long way from May, where 375 horses sold for a gross of \$34.7 million. That sale has a track record, years of success to lean on and graduates including 2023 Kentucky Derby-G1 winner Mage.

Though Timonium used to host a June sale of 2-year-olds, it had been 16 years and the 2023 version was created to help with overflowing demand for

May entries. Timonium's stable area gets maxed out by the 430-ish horses selling over two days in May. Bennett said the second sale would stay on the calendar for 2024.

"We think it works for the region," she said. "Maybe some people who can't compete with the level of horses at the May sale will think about it and it's a good fit for regional consignors or people with horses who just weren't ready for May. We learned this year that buyers will support it, which was important."

The June 28 sale came with some fireworks as a Kantharos filly out of La Titina brought \$500,000 to top the sale on a bid by agent Steve Young. Consigned by Pennsylvania's Crane Thoroughbreds, the filly, whose second dam is multiple Grade 1 winner Ask the Moon, is something of a veteran of the sales ring. Crane client, the Keep The Ball Rollin partnership,

paid \$125,000 for her as a yearling at Keeneland September in 2022 and she failed to meet her reserve at the Ocala Breeders' Sales Company's April sale.

The June sale date fit the sales-topper and several others in the Crane consignment, which sold 11 of 14 for \$903,000 and an average of \$82,091.

"I had some horses that had little knick-knack injuries earlier in the year that I couldn't get ready for earlier sales," said Clovis Crane. "Having the later option worked out really well for us. The Kantharos filly was in a partnership who have been with me for a long time."

Crane also picked up several 2-year-olds bred by George Strawbridge Jr.'s Augustin Stable for the consignment, including a Flatter filly out of Pennsylvania-bred stakes winner Valued Strike going for \$95,000 to Marette Farrell as agent for Jewel Box Racing. Valued Strike's family includes Augustin standouts Ratings, Recording, Smart Bid, Anthony's Cross and Fugitive Angel.

Arrogate yearlings rounded out the top three prices at the sale – a \$225,000 daughter of the 2023 Hall of Fame inductee and the Stephen Got Even mare Summer Shade and a \$150,000 daughter out of the Mr. Greeley mare Beer Baroness. Maryland owner Hillwood Stable bought the former, a New York-bred from the family of stakes horses Harmon and Hot Summer tracing back to the influential Toll Booth. John Guarneri, whose Imaginary Stables is active in the



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— The Starting Gate —

region and beyond, bought the other Arrogate filly. She is a half-sister to Canadian champion Ria Antonia.

Consignor Tom McCrocklin sold two of the four to reach \$100,000 and 10 overall for a total of \$498,000. Cary Frommer sold three for \$335,000 to lead consignors by average (\$111,667). Wes Carter sold 13 of the 16 he cataloged for \$280,000 total.

Buyers covered a wide variety of national and regional names, and were – as Bennett said – the strength of the sale. Beyond those mentioned, the list included agent Dennis O'Neill, Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners, Kirkwood Equine Advisory, regional trainers Andy Simoff, Hugh McMahon, Robin Graham, Keri Brion, John Salzman Jr. and Gary Contessa plus Mid-Atlantic

owners Joe Besecker, Respect the Valleys, Richard Hoffberger and others.

Bennett called the sale a success, but – as importantly – a solid first step.

“We proved it worked so hopefully people will think about it as an option,” she said. “If some horses get to the races and have success, we’ll be able to talk about them before next year.”

— Joe Clancy

— Mid-Atlantic-bred Stakes Winners —

June 5 – August 4

Maryland-bred

BOSSERATI, dk.b./br.f., 2020, Holy Boss—Candy Striper, by Twirling Candy. B/O-Joel Politi; T-Brittany T. Russell. \$100,000 Stormy Blues S, Laurel, June 18.

COCONUT CAKE, gr./ro.m., 2017, Bandbox—English Muffin, by English Channel. B-Mr. & Mrs. Charles McGinnes; O-N R S Stable, James Chambers & Timothy L. Keefe; T-Timothy L. Keefe. \$75,000 Jameela S, Laurel, July 1.

SUPER ACCELERATE, b.c., 2020, Accelerate—Bawler Hon, by Silver Train. B-Bowman & Higgins Stable; O-Steven L. Walfish; T-Robin L. Graham. \$75,000 Star de Naskra S, Laurel, July 29.

TALK TO THE JUDGE, dk.b./br.f., 2020, Golden Lad—Talkin Smack, by Not For Love. B-Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Bowman; O-Waldorf Racing Stables LLC; T-Marya K. Montoya. \$75,000 Miss Disco S, Laurel, July 29.

New Jersey-bred

HE'S PURE GOLD, b.g., 2018, Vancouver (Aus)—Smart N Classy, by Smart Strike. B-John Bowers Jr.; O-Roseland Farm Stable (Bowers); T-Kelly J. Breen. \$85,000 Irish War Cry H, Monmouth, July 9.

IRISH BOOLUM, ch.g., 2019, Exaggerator—Irish Score, by Even the Score. B/O-Isabelle H. de Tomaso; T-Cathal A. Lynch. \$85,000 Friendly Lover H, Monmouth, June 11.

PRECIOUS AVARY, dk.b./br.f., 2020, Divining Rod—Alytania, by Mutakddim. B/O-Smith Farm & Stable; T-Timothy J. Shaw. \$85,000 Jersey Girl H, Monmouth, July 8.

Pennsylvania-bred

CAPTAIN COURTNEY, b.f., 2020, Army Mule—Mareana, by Northern Fleet. B-Wesley R.

Bennett; O-Arnold Davidov & Susan Davidov; T-Michael J. Trombetta. \$100,000 Malvern Rose S, Presque Isle, July 17.

CARAVEL, gr./ro.m., 2017, Mizzen Mast—Zeezee Zoomzoom, by Congrats. B-Elizabeth M. Merryman; O-Qatar Racing, Marc Detampel & Madaket Stables LLC; T-Brad H. Cox. \$400,000 Jaipur S-G1, Belmont, June 10.

FORE HARP, b.g., 2018, Weigelia—Katarica Disco, by Disco Rico. B-St. Omers Farm; O-LC Racing, James Bonner & Wellesley Stable; T-Robert E. Reid Jr. \$100,000 Laurel Dash S, Laurel, July 1.

HEY MAMALUKE, dk.b./br.m., 2016, Jump Start—Pu Dew, by Lucky Lionel. B/O-Joseph Capriglione; T-Patricia Farro. \$100,000 Power by Far S, Parx, June 26.

MALDIVES MODEL, b.m., 2018, Petionville—Tahitian Pearl, by El Prado (Ire). B-Arrowwood Farm; O-Tom Coulter; T-Cassandra Judd. \$100,000 Princess of Sylmar S, Presque Isle, July 24.

MOVISITOR, dk.b./br.c., 2020, Uncle Mo—Ristretto, by Medaglia d'Oro. B-Forgotten Land Investment Inc.; O-F L I Racing; T-Edward Vaughan. \$100,000 Crowd Pleaser S, Parx, June 26.

MY BEAUTIFUL BELLE, ch.m., 2018, Munnings—Winiliscious, by Lawyer Ron. B-Joseph A. Ioia; O-Joseph Ioia, Gayle Ioia & Chuck Spina; T-Chuck Spina. \$100,000 Regret S, Monmouth, July 1.

NICE ACE, b.g., 2018, Noble Mission (GB)—A Lady With an Ace, by First Samurai. B-Blackstone Farm LLC; O-Robert D. Bone; T-Tim Girten. \$100,000 Hard Spun S, Presque Isle, July 25.

ROSES FOR DEBRA, gr./ro.f., 2019, Liam's Map—Essential Rose, by Bernardini. B-Blackstone Farm LLC; O-John O'Meara; T-Christophe Clement. \$200,000 Caress S-G3, Saratoga, July 22.

Virginia-bred

ALEX JOON, dk.b./br.g., 2017, Flatter—Sun Salutation, by Include. B-Morgan's Ford Farm; O-Ten Strike Racing; T-Lindsay Schultz. \$125,000 Edward P. Evans S, Colonial, July 15.

CHAMBEAU, dk.b./br.m., 2017, Karakontie (Jpn)—If Not for Lust, by Not For Love. B/O-Sam E. English II; T-Anthony Aguirre Jr. \$125,000 Tyson Gilpin/Glenn Petty S, Colonial, July 15.

DETERMINED KINGDOM, b.g., 2019, Animal Kingdom—Filia, by Fastnet Rock. B-Audley Farm Equine LLC; O-D Hatman Thoroughbreds & Kingdom Bloodstock Inc.; T-Phil Schoenthal. \$125,000 Punch Line S, Colonial, July 15.

GALILEI, dk.b./br.f., 2019, Lemon Drop Kid—Fairytale Ending (Ire), by Galileo (Ire). B-Audley Farm Equine; O-Country Life Farm; T-Michael J. Trombetta. \$125,000 Brookmeade S, Colonial, July 15.

West Virginia-bred

GREAT SPIRIT, b.f., 2020, Great Notion—Happy Numbers, by Polish Numbers. B-Jill N. Daniel; O-Jill Daniel; T-Crystal G. Pickett. \$75,000 Sylvia Bishop Memorial S, Charles Town, July 29.

LITTLE ROO ROO, ch.g., 2020, Limehouse—Pepper Bay, by Bop. B-Sherwood Bryant; O/T-Michael E. Jones Jr. \$75,000 It's Only Money S, Charles Town, June 17; \$75,000 Robert G. Leavitt S, Charles Town, July 22.

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— Next Chapters —

BY MAGGIE KIMMITT

Helicopter



Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, established Turning For Home, the Thoroughbred retirement program at Parx. As a trainer, Luna well understood the problems faced when a horse is no longer competitive.

All along, she felt a pull to devote her life to off-track Thoroughbreds. That, and a fascination and desire to live in a historic southern town, led to the 2012 purchase of a farm in Appomattox, Va., a few miles from where Confederate and Union generals Lee and Grant signed documents ending the Civil War in 1865.

She named her new home War Horses at Rose Bower (for the area in which the property is located) and set out to rehabilitate horses ages 7 and up who made more than 70 lifetime starts.

In a career spanning more than 40 years, Barbara Luna has influenced a multitude of facets of the Thoroughbred industry. The New Jersey native rode retired racehorses as a child and loved attending the races at Monmouth Park as a teenager. Walking hots in college led to breaking yearlings at Xalapa Farm for late trainer John Ward Jr. while attending graduate school at the University of Kentucky. Next came a job galloping horses at Keeneland and working in the research department of *The Blood-Horse* magazine.

Returning to New Jersey, Luna parlayed her experiences into a position as paddock analyst host of handicapping shows at Monmouth and the Meadowlands, then Gulfstream Park and Philadelphia Park (now Parx Racing). Horse ownership followed, and eventually, a trainer's license.

In 2006, she was named executive director of the ReRun Thoroughbred adoption organization in 2006. In 2009 she and Michael Ballezzi, then executive director of the Pennsylvania

"Those are the real warhorses," Luna said.

While rehoming remains the original objective, she ended up with several permanent residents.

One such pensioner is Helicopter, now 17. He came with the proper credentials: 94 starts with a record of 30-16-13 and \$557,975 earned. Bred in Florida by Hidden Point Farm, he is by graded stakes-winning Storm Cat stallion Three Wonders out of the Septieme Ciel mare Heaven's Run.

Dr. Jean White initially contacted Luna on behalf of Helicopter's owners Richard Ravin, Christine Wagner and trainer Larry Rivelli. They discovered War Horses at Rose Bower in their search for a Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance-accredited retirement operation.

Even a cursory review of Helicopter's lifetime record gives the impression that "war horse" could have been coined for him. He made 14 winless starts as a 2-year-old in 2008 for owner/trainer Daniel Hurtak, all at Calder Race Course in

Florida. In early 2009 he shifted to Hawthorne for owner/trainer Wayne Catalano, breaking his maiden there March 28. Two months later he changed hands again, winning a \$5,000 claimer at Arlington Park for Rivelli and owners Mario Donato and Wagner.

In Illinois, Helicopter was a different horse – a virtual ATM machine who just kept winning and getting checks. On July 26, 2009, Helicopter won at Arlington Park and was claimed by Dale Bennett for Dyedra Kademoglou. In his next start at the same track in September 2009, Helicopter was back running for Rivelli, Donato and Wagner. He never left Rivelli's barn, his career continuing for another seven years.

Helicopter took his races with him, winning at Arlington (15 times), Presque Isle Downs (eight times), Hawthorne, Keeneland, Woodbine. From Dec. 19, 2009, through June 18, 2010, he won six consecutive races. His only black type came with a third in Woodbine's listed Valedictory Stakes Dec. 5, 2010. His nine wins in 2009 were the fourth most in North America. He backed up that season with seven more wins in 2010.

"When Helicopter first arrived here, all Dr. White told me was he was 'quirky' and needed front shoes," Luna said. "He's always been a good boy and well behaved, turned out with three buddies. So I finally had a chance recently to ask her what that meant. Her response was that his sire, Three Wonders, was a very difficult horse that passed his stubbornness on to Helicopter. She is still a huge fan of this sweet horse, and she credits his trainer, Larry Rivelli, with his success."

"Once Larry figured that Helicopter wanted to do things his own way, he began winning," White said.

Rivelli played to his horse's strengths. Helicopter was a synthetic-track and distance specialist. Twenty-five of his wins came on all-weather surfaces. Mornings were a different story.

"You could never get him to hurry," Rivelli said. "He was horse that tied up a lot. He needed to be out of his stall moving, so he was allowed to walk around the backstretch with his rider. It took him about an hour to gallop and come back . . . and then he always had to have his peppermints afterward."

In the gelding's final race Sept. 24, 2016, Arlington Park track announcer John Dooley called, "Here comes the all-weather warrior!" as the 10-year-old motored down the stretch to win as the favorite in a \$7,500 claimer.

Since settling in at Rose Bower seven years ago, Helicopter enjoys everything his way and on his time. And proving it is indeed a small world, he even found an old fan in tiny Appomattox.

"I met Don and Nancy Wilks when I asked if I could hold a fundraiser for War Horses at Rose Bower in this really cool

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“When he finally did agree to gallop, he’d stop and stand, then run and wheel to hurry and get off the track, still taking his time getting back to the barn. I finally had to go back to my barn because I’d spend so much time waiting for him to get around the track.”

– *Trainer Larry Rivelli,*
about Helicopter’s habits as a racehorse

old building of theirs,” Luna said. “They had moved here from Pennsylvania, but Don was born and raised in Illinois. He, his brother and father followed horse racing.”

“We loved handicapping the races,” Don Wilks said. “We’d look over the newspapers and try to pick winners for the day.”

When Luna explained her program to the Wilks, Don immediately recognized Helicopter’s name.

“My brother saw Helicopter’s last race,” Wilks said.

Don and Nancy soon visited the farm with their family and grandchildren, staying all day to help Luna prepare for her upcoming TAA inspection.

“Even after doing this job for so many years, I still get very excited when a new horse arrives,” Luna said. “My board members come out to meet and greet, and it is so much fun to photograph, see the new guy, then learn their habits and personalities.”

“I just think it’s so funny that it took me several years to ask Dr. White what she meant about Helicopter’s quirks, and to find out that he had an amazing fan club. Although he’s not a stakes winner or a fancy horse, he still has a great following even though Arlington Park is gone and Helicopter is living out in my field here in Virginia. I appreciate him even more now.” ■

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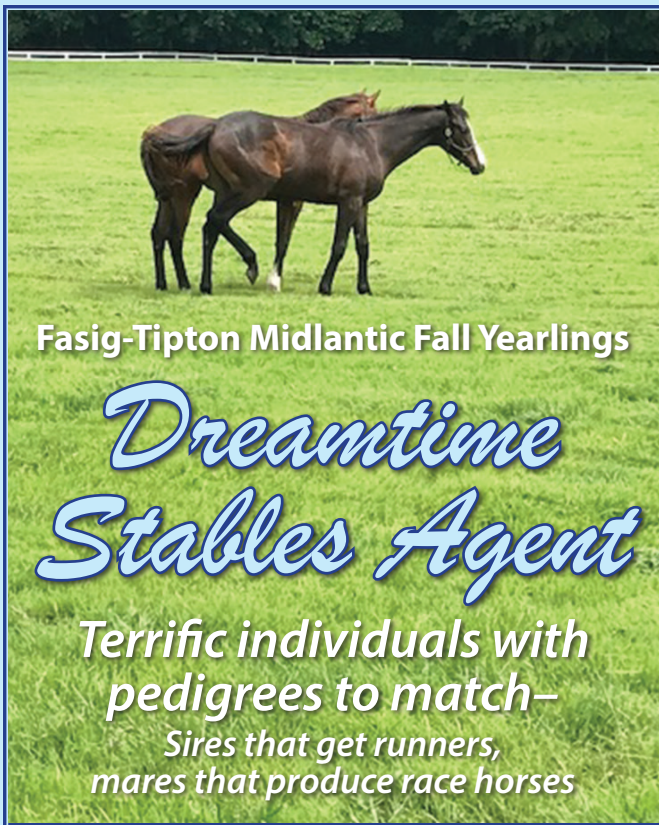
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— From the editor —

BY JOE CLANCY

Augustus left a racing legacy

I get to interview plenty of people in this job. The sessions can come on the phone or in person; be formal or casual. I've asked hard questions, easy questions, dumb questions, too many questions and not enough questions.

But the people get me, or the variety of people anyway. They can be everybody and anybody, and ultimately that's what makes writing about the Thoroughbred industry interesting and – at times – fun.

Almost eight years ago, it was Peggy Augustus. The Peggy Augustus. Keswick Stables . . . Virginia . . . Northern Dancer's

dam . . . Saratoga yearling consignments . . . Johnny D. . . . Sabin . . . Alwuhush . . . Arctic Tern . . . and all the rest. I called her because Stellar Wind, basically the last horse Keswick bred, turned into a champion. Augustus answered the phone, told the whole story (warts and all), made me laugh, made me think.

Her association with racing went back to her father Ellsworth Hunt "Gus" Augustus, an Ohio businessman who bought Old Keswick Farm near Charlottesville, Va., in 1952. Among many ventures, Gus was an amateur golfer who once



beat Bobby Jones at a charity event, served in the Navy during World War II, was the civil defense coordinator of Cuyahoga County and president of the Boy Scouts of America.

His wife Elizabeth, in partnership with Daniel Van Clief, bred Northern Dancer's dam Natalma and when Gus died in 1963 their daughter Peggy moved to the farm and carried on the Thoroughbred tradition with her mother. Peggy bred Johnny D., champion turf horse of 1977 and winner of the Grade 1 Washington D.C. International. Keswick co-bred Sabin and sold her for \$750,000 as a Saratoga yearling in 1981. Trained by Woody Stephens for Henryk de Kwiatkowski, the Lyphard mare won 18 races and earned \$1,098,341. In 1986 at Saratoga, Keswick sold homebred Alwuhush to Darley for \$750,000. The son of Nureyev won two Group 1 stakes in Italy, won at Ascot and captured an American Grade 1 in 1989. Husband, a buy-back at the 1991 Saratoga sale, won stakes in France and landed the Rothmans International-G1 at Woodbine in 1993 for Keswick.

Keep digging, there's more. There's always more. At Saratoga in 1984, Keswick sold a \$4 million Roberto colt. In 1982, Keswick topped the sale with a \$2.1 million filly by The Minstrel. In 1985, a filly by Al Nasr (Fr) flew the Keswick banner at \$1.6 million.

All that was in the past by the time Stellar Wind came along. She carried plenty of Keswick pedigree as her female line went to the Keswick-bred mares Evening Star and Sequins. The latter was by the Keswick-bred Northern Fashion, a son of Northern Dancer who won three races for trainer Bill Hirsch. Bred to Curlin in 2011, Evening Star produced a filly born at Keswick and co-bred by the Virginia farm and Curlin's owner Stonestreet Thoroughbreds. She sold for \$40,000, the lowest price of the 2013 Saratoga yearling sale due to some veterinary questions and the Keswick/Stonestreet partnership that had to end.

Stellar Wind went on to win six Grade 1 stakes, earn \$2.9 million and get handed an Eclipse Award as champion 3-year-old filly of 2015. Now, after selling for \$6 million in 2017, she's part of the broodmare band at Coolmore.

Back in 2015, all Augustus wanted to do was talk about the horse she bred and what it meant to her.

"It's absolutely a thrill," she said. "Any time you breed a stakes winner is a thrill. I had been out of the business for a while so it's really fun to stir up the interest again."

You could feel the importance of it, even if a little bit of her wished she'd found a way to keep the future star as a yearling. The Keswick silks would have looked good on Stellar Wind.

Before turning to racing, Augustus was a star in the show ring, aboard standouts Waiting Home, Little Sailor and



BRANT GAMMA PHOTOS

Sutton Place among others. She won major championships in the United States and Canada, competing at the National Horse Show at Madison Square Garden, Devon Horse Show, Royal Winter Fair, Pennsylvania National and top shows in Virginia and beyond. Augustus was inducted into five Halls of Fame – Virginia Sports, Virginia Horse Show Association, National Show Hunter, National Horse Show Foundation and Virginia Thoroughbred Association (which included her mother and Keswick Stables).

Augustus died at Old Keswick July 30, rescue dogs Minnie Pearl and Monty Heeler by her side. She was 90. The obituary (you can find it online) listed seven nieces and nephews as survivors.

In reality, the woman's impact on racing in Virginia and beyond was the real survivor. Here's to not forgetting it. ■

Home Game

VIRGINIA-BRED GIGANTE WINS SECRETARIAT STAKES IN FIRST RUNNING AT COLONIAL DOWNS

By Joe Clancy ■ Photographs by Coady Photography

When Churchill Downs Inc. moved the Arlington Million-G1, Beverly D.-G1 and Secretariat-G2 to Virginia's Colonial Downs for 2023, somebody somewhere might have dreamed up how productive it would be for a Virginia-bred to win one of the major turf stakes.

But it wasn't Debbie Easter.

"We couldn't have written that script any better," said the executive director of the Virginia Thoroughbred Association of Virginia-bred Gigante's upset of the Secretariat Aug. 12. "To have a Virginia-bred win that race, on that day, with the people who were there, was about as good as it gets."

And then some. Bred by Ann Mudge Backer and Smitten Farm, Gigante won the race named for the most famous Virginia-bred of all-time, on its first running in Virginia, at the state's only flat-racing track, with Gov. Glenn Youngkin and his wife Suzanne in attendance. Easter, and anyone else connected to the state's Thoroughbred industry, went along for the ride.

"It was awesome," Easter said. "We've had nice horses come to Colonial Downs before, but watching the Secretariat Stakes, seeing the Beverly D. and standing in the paddock for the Million and looking at those silks on all those horses – those are some of the best owners and horses in the world – was really special."

Juddmonte Farms' Set Piece (GB) won the Million with an 11th to first charge. The son of Dansili (GB) scored by 2 lengths over Santin with Adhamo (Ire) third after a course record 1:58.19 for 1¼ miles. Trained by Brad Cox and ridden by Florent Geroux, Set Piece collected his 13th win in a career that started in England and includes a start in France and races at 10 North American racetracks. With the \$582,800 win-

ner's check, the 7-year-old gelding pushed his career earnings to \$1,684,733.

One race before the Million, Tracy Farmer's Fev Rover (Ire) lived up to her 3-5 odds by leading every inch of the Beverly D. for trainer Mark Casse and jockey Javier Castellano. The 5-year-old mare came out of a third in Saratoga's Diana-G1 July 15.

The three-pack of graded stakes began with the Secretariat, restricted to 3-year-olds and a fixture on the Arlington Million card at Arlington Park before Churchill sold the iconic Chicago track in 2021. A field of six stepped into the gate. Belmont Park maiden winner Northern Invader rated a slight favorite over Pimlico Race Course stakes winner Nagirroc and Group 3 winner Silver Knott (GB), the latter from the deep barn of Godolphin and English-based trainer Charlie Appleby. Gigante, trained by Steve Asmussen for Iapetus Racing and Diamond T Racing, came in off three starts this year – a stakes win at Horseshoe Indianapolis in May, a sixth at Ellis Park July 1, and a third against older horses in the restricted Edward P. Evans at Colonial July 15.

Castellano pulled the son of Not This Time out of a tight spot between Silver Knott and Nagirroc early, and they were last going into the first turn. They stayed there through splits of :23.67 and :48.03. Outside and sixth entering the turn, Gigante advanced four wide into the stretch, passed Major Dude and held off Nagirroc by a neck at 22-1 after a mile in 1:35.10. The bay colt collected his fourth lifetime win (from nine starts) and his first at Colonial since taking the Kitten's Joy Stakes last September.

Back at Smitten (between The Plains and Middleburg), and way up the East Coast in Maine, Gigante's people celebrated.



Virginia-bred Gigante holds off Nagirroc in the final yards of the Secretariat Stakes at Colonial Downs.

“I’ve said it before, it’s just extra special when you work for such a small operation to have that type of success,” said Smitten Farm’s Hunter Marek. “We only have a handful of broodmares. For us to produce something like that on our small farm, at Colonial Downs, in the Secretariat Stakes, is so special.”

Founded by the Backers, Smitten has produced Thoroughbreds, cattle and crops since its start in the 1980s. Names such as Snit, Blind Date, Crab Grass and others were fixtures on the track and in the broodmare band. When Bill Backer died at age 89 in 2016, his wife inherited the farm and nearly 100 racehorses, broodmares and young horses. She sold most, kept three stalwarts (Blind Date, Snit and Crab Grass’ daughter Summertime Green) and added a few new brood-

“You’re always going to be the breeder whenever they go on and do something.”

– Farm manager Hunter Marek, to Smitten Farm’s Ann Mudge Backer



Juddmonte Farms' Set Piece (3) rallies off the turn en route to victory in the Grade 1 Arlington Million, at Virginia's Colonial Downs for the first time.

mares. Much smaller than it was, Smitten is active at the sales and keeps a few horses to race.

Gigante represents generations of Backer breeding through his first three dams – the winless-in-one-start Summertime Green, multiple stakes winner Crab Grass and \$35,000 Backer purchase Deep Enough. Bought at Keeneland November in 1992, the latter, a daughter of Raise a Native, lost all three starts but quickly became a star of the broodmare band. Crab Grass won nine races and \$543,291. Maryland-breds Fescue and Dinner Party won three each and were stakes-placed.

Foaled at Smitten, Gigante went to Keeneland September and brought \$120,000. Marek remembered an active young horse, one of three colts typically turned out together.

"He was the most precocious of that group," she said. "Taylor Made did the prep that year so he went down in early July. Out in the field, you could tell he was special. He was just an athlete, quicker to do things, quicker to learn things."

His dam's reputation didn't hurt the opinion.

"He's out of my all-time favorite mare at Smitten Farm," said Marek. "Nine years ago, when I first started working



here, I probably would have said the same thing. It's been Summertime Green all the way. Of course, I think nine out of 10 people at Smitten Farm would say that. She's just easy to handle, sweet as can be and one of Mr. Backer's original homebreds. We have a whole bunch of that family and that made it extra special."

The Secretariat winner mixed old and new – Bill Backer's pedigree and Ann Backer's decision to breed to Not This Time.

In addition to Gigante, Summertime Green has produced eight other foals including stakes winner Tryon Summer, a Hard Spun filly born this year, a 2021 Audible filly sold for \$160,000 last September at Keeneland, and a Gun Runner colt heading to the same sale. She's in foal to Not This Time's son Epicenter.

Like Marek, Ann Backer was not at Colonial for the Secretariat but watched from Maine where she spends much of the summer except for a trip to Saratoga for the annual Fasig-Tipton yearling sale. Through Taylor Made, Smitten sold a Not This Time filly out of Winter at this year's sale for \$385,000 and kept a Not This Time filly out of Philanthropic who did not meet her reserve.

"She has been a big supporter of his," said Marek of the stallion, who stands at Taylor Made in Kentucky. "We always seem to have a Not This Time on the farm and she was ecstatic when Gigante won. She always struggles with keeping them or selling them and we tell her, 'You're always going to be the breeder whenever they go on and do something.' And look what he's gone and done."

Colonial Notes

The track's 2023 season started July 13 and hosted four Virginia-bred stakes on the first Saturday, July 15. Sam English's homebred **Chambeau** won the Tyson Gilpin/Glenn

Petty Stakes for the second consecutive year, kicking clear late to win by $3\frac{3}{4}$ lengths for trainer Anthony Aguirre. The 6-year-old daughter of Karakontie (Jpn) and the Not For Love mare If Not for Lust won last year's Gilpin in her career debut. She has since added two other wins and pushed her career earnings to \$224,300 . . . **Determined Kingdom** also repeated in the Punch Line Stakes for D Hatman Thoroughbreds and Kingdom Bloodstock, the 4-year-old Animal Kingdom gelding's fifth lifetime win for trainer Phil Schoenthal . . . Country Life Farm's **Galilei** caught Tufani late to become a stakes winner in the Brookmeade for trainer Mike Trombetta . . . Ten Strike Racing's **Alex Joon** collected the Edward P. Evans Stakes (where Gigante finished third) to give trainer Lindsay Schultz her first stakes win. She added a second when Highestdistinction won the Oceanport at Monmouth Park in August . . . **Audley Farm Equine** bred Determined Kingdom and Galilei . . . August 2-year-old stakes on the dirt went to Pennsylvania-breds **Carmelina** (the Keswick for fillies) and **Going Up** (the Hickory Tree for colts/geldings). ■



Irish-bred Fev Rover (second from right) pulls away from the field on the final turn to win the Grade 1 Beverly D.

The Good Life, at Last

RETIRES FIND SANCTUARY AT THOROUGHBRED RETIREMENT FOUNDATION FARM IN VIRGINIA

By Eliza McGraw ■ Photographs by Katherine Turnbull



When farm manager Ellie Dalton and assistant manager Alex Lee got to the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation's Front Royal, Va., farm one sunny April morning, 69 horses waited. Some wanted grain. Others had misplaced their fly masks. Most quietly grazed the gentle hills of the farm's approximately 200 acres.

Sixty-eight are Thoroughbreds (no one is quite sure how a breed-unknown gelding named Burt made it through, but he is a part of the farm now). Some were rescued from auctions, others placed here by owners. Some have sponsors who send money for care and receive photos and updates. Ten horses

were between 25 and 30 years old. Forty were 20 to 24. Three were blind in one eye. None were riding sound.

The mission of the TRF, founded in 1983, is "to save Thoroughbred racehorses no longer able to compete on the racetrack from possible abuse, neglect and slaughter." It is headquartered in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., and besides the Front Royal farm, has 18 locations, eight at correctional facilities where inmates work with horses. Some, like the Front Royal facility, are sanctuary farms. The horses are pastured, with no expectation of retraining for second careers, although many are eligible for adoption as companion animals. Some



“He’s like one of those old men
who have lived in the same town
their whole lives and are like,
‘I don’t need help.’”

– *Ellie Dalton, about 30-year-old Astro Force*



Assistant farm manager Alex Lee fills some feed buckets.

450 horses reside at TRF sanctuary farms. Front Royal, which opened in 2003, is the second largest; the biggest, in Oklahoma, houses 120 horses.

At Front Royal live horses with “origins in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Florida, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Canada, Argentina and Ireland – a true melting pot,” said Liz Bennett, TRF’s national herd manager, in an email. “Likewise, the horses living in this herd have varied lifetime earnings. Take for instance, our Florida-bred horse, Compelled – he only earned \$225 on the track in comparison to our New Jersey-bred horse, Summer Swing, who earned \$331,722 during his racing career.”

Sue Kenny, who helped rehome retirees when she worked for trainer Graham Motion, placed a horse named Don’t Quit Dreaming with the TRF. The gelding started at the Sykesville, Md., correctional facility, and during the pandemic was moved to Front Royal. “He’s still there because he’s having the time of his life,” Kenny said.

And that’s, in a sentence, the goal of every horse on the place. By summer the population had grown by three –

17-year-old Final Straw, 6-year-old Quixotic and 20-year-old Sassy Lad. The resident Thoroughbreds’ daily lives follow a routine painstakingly tailored to their retired status and individual needs, from the anti-inflammatory medication Previcox to certain companions to cribbing collars. This is where Dalton and Lee come in.

In the feed shed, a whiteboard listed horses’ nutrition and medication needs. Dalton served grain and medications into color-coordinated buckets. She and Lee sometimes complete each other’s sentences, and it’s not a shock to find out that they have been best friends since high school.

They worked at the same trail-riding barn as teenagers, and since then both have had several horse jobs, including with Virginia-based former steeplechase jockey turned trainer Jeff Murphy.

Over the years, Dalton has worked with horses of all ages at St. Brides breeding and training farm, in Upperville, Va. Lee helped with night watch, mares, babies and sales prep at Morgan’s Ford Farm in Front Royal, and traveled between Florida and Kentucky as a show groom.



Farm manager Ellie Dalton (right) and assistant Alex Lee enjoy a moment with Pen Eyes (left) and Crusher Site.

Both are 25, younger than plenty of the horses in their care. With help from one part-time employee, they run the farm.

Many horses who need grain in the winter put on enough weight on the grass to go without supplementary feed, but this early spring morning, there are still around a dozen horses getting grain.

“Astro! Jerry! Come on, you want breakfast?” Dalton called. The first field of the day has the most geriatric residents, because it’s the flattest on the farm, with just enough hill for horses to get some exercise. The beckoned horses moseyed over and waited, ears pricked, while gates opened. Bold Jerry, part of the one-eyed club, entered a paddock for his grain. Astro Force, the farm’s eldest resident at 30, ate too. “He’s built great, didn’t need to be fed until last year, he’s not very sore at all, and he’s a good boy,” said Dalton. “He just doesn’t like fly spray. He doesn’t like to be fussed over, either, honestly. He’s like one of those old men who have lived in the same town their whole lives and are like, ‘I don’t need help.’”

While the first group ate grain, Dalton and Lee went to “the middle,” an area home to three mares and a geld-

ing named Power Choice. Two mares needed grain, and Power Choice had returned recently after some years with an adopter. He’d had multiple abscesses on the same foot, which Dalton and Lee treated. He was staying with the mares until he fully acclimated and then would go into the larger gelding field. Once Dalton and Lee had examined these four horses, they got into a red Ford F-250 to do the field check of the “upper end” field, which holds 15 mares.

The farm has stalls, but Dalton and Lee do their horse tending out in the fields – minor wound ministrations, dentistry, farrier visits and veterinarian calls. The practitioners who come to the farm know, for example, that they won’t be able to tie a horse while they’re examining his teeth. This minimizes distress for horses used to being together and outside. Each day, Dalton and Lee patrol the fields. They check waterers. They groom when there’s time and use checklists to make sure they look at every horse every day. If something’s wrong, they treat it.

“Anybody standing weird, I’m watching, waiting,” said Lee. “Are you going to move?”



“They have to establish a friend group. It’s harsh for us to see when they correct each other, but to the horses that’s normal talking. That’s them getting a chance to speak horse with other horses.”

– *Ellie Dalton, farm manager*

“If they’re laying down, it’s, ‘Are you colicking? Or just sleeping?’” said Dalton.

“Some of them are field sound,” Dalton said, “but once they start trotting or cantering, you think. . .”

“Don’t ever do that again,” finished Lee.

Dalton pointed out mares as they gathered around the truck, investigating, or grazed in clusters. She knows every horse’s Jockey Club name, and listed a nearby group easily. “That’s Kona Code, Mighty Reward, Superb Surprise. The two girls with the cribbing collars are Denville and Tack Room. This is Elegant Alex, Secret Motive, Pumpkin Spice and Gitem Willie.”

Mighty Reward, Dalton said, is the farm’s highest-earning mare, with \$114,281 to her name. The 14-year-old New York-bred won three races – one at Saratoga. Another, Pumpkin

Spice, was underweight and skittish when she arrived. With time and patient handling, the now 18-year-old became more brave and easygoing. Each positive interaction between the managers and horses, said Lee, is part of “the bank of trust. So then when we have to make a withdrawal to do the bad, it’s not so bad.”

“Because you’re always putting in,” said Dalton. “It’s not the well of trust, it’s the bank of trust.”

Although Thoroughbreds’ birthdays are, of course, all marked on Jan. 1, Dalton and Lee keep a record of the residents’ actual foaling dates. On those days, they take the horses treats and sing to them. The celebrations show that not every interaction with people means they will get a shot from the vet or must stand for the farrier. “It’s just nice, every once in a while, for those horses that aren’t exactly social to think, ‘Oh,

Virginia has lots of ways to play

Virginia Breeders

NEW Beginning in with foals of 2024, Virginia breeders will earn bonuses for registered Virginia-breds finishing 1st through 3rd in open races in North America (state-bred and state-sired races are excluded except at Colonial Downs and NSA sanctioned meets in Virginia*). Foals must be dropped in Virginia and the foal's dam must reside in Virginia from September 1st, 2023, until foaling the following year. Mares purchased at public sale after September 1st may enter the program if they arrive at a Virginia Facility within fifteen days of the purchase date (60 days if purchased outside of the U.S.).
*Pending VA Commission approval

Virginia-Bred/Sired/ Certified Developers

VA-Certified Developers:

Developers of VA-Certified horses earn up to a 25% bonus for open wins in the Mid-Atlantic region (NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, WV), including NSA-sanctioned meets. VA-Certified Developers earn a 10% bonus for state-bred-restricted races in the Mid-Atlantic region. (Beginning with foals of 2023, bonuses will not be earned for wins in West Virginia).

VA-Bred or Sired Developers:

Beginning with foals of 2021, the developer will earn up to a 25% bonus on wins in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Virginia-Bred/Sired/ Certified Owners

- Owners of VA-bred/sired foals prior to 2021 earn up to a 25% bonus on wins in the Mid-Atlantic region, including NSA-sanctioned meets.
- Owners of VA-bred/sired foals earn a 50% bonus on purses 1st-4th in all open races at Colonial Downs.
- Increased purses for VA-Restricted races at Colonial Downs.
- VA-Restricted stakes and VA-Bred & VA-Sired stakes at Colonial Downs with up to \$150,000 purses.



See VaBred.org for program details

Or contact the
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The daily routine includes “doctoring” for the horses who need it. Opposite: horses settle in for another day on the Virginia farm.

I just got a little bit of grain and then they drove off? No bad experience, no wormers?” said Dalton.

After checking the mares, Dalton and Lee drove back to the horses who’d finished eating and were now ready to rejoin the herd. One, Bi Flash, needed wound treatment for some proud flesh on a cannon bone. Lee expertly wrapped the horse’s leg while he stood, distracted by some grain. “Thoroughbreds, you teach them something once and they remember it forever,” she said.

The managers roach manes, to minimize burr snarls, but keep forelocks and tails long. In the spring, they hand-wash blankets in a trough with Borax, then place a ladder across the top of a stall and hang the blankets from the front buckle to air-dry. Nutritionists and forage experts visit the farm regularly. To keep the horses’ details in order, Dalton and Lee use a Google form they can access on their phones. It shows the horses’ names, nicknames, birthdays, tattoo numbers and overall descriptions. There are tabs for the farrier schedules, medications, wormer, vaccinations, Equibase links. There is a tab for dead or relocated horses. Another lists the members of the various groups that congregate in each field.

Dalton also takes and sends photos of the sponsored horses, keeps receipts and sometimes does transport. She might review a different farm, using a checklist of fence and horse conditions. She sends in hours, does the hiring, and

decides when a horse’s illness or injury requires a veterinarian. She schedules worming, vaccinations, farrier and dentist visits.

In the Big Pond field, the next stop, geldings have worn visible paths to their favorite scratching spots and stands of trees. “What’s up, Gupgup,” said Lee to Delaroi, barn name Guppy. The New Jersey-bred, now 19, was head shy when he arrived at the farm, and usually only Dalton could handle him easily. But on this day he just looked mildly around.

“Maybe I’m not actually a feral goblin child,” said Lee, as he approached.

“Maybe I’m domesticated,” Dalton said.

Stevie – Seeking Revenge – came over. “These two have great personalities, but they are criminals,” Lee said, looking at 18-year-old Maryland-bred Stevie. “You are a criminal.”

Dalton and Lee returned to the truck, and drove beneath a rise in the land, so they were largely hidden from the herd and could quietly feed multiple stakes winner Summer Swing, the one gelding in the big pond field who gets grain. He tucked in, and they watched the rest of the herd.

The weather had been dry, and the pond was largely mud, but a chestnut called Sunapee was attracted to it anyway, pawing and stamping until mud splattered his chest and neck. Stevie wandered over to stand beside him. Sunapee kept pawing.

“Look at Stevie,” said Dalton, who quickly read the horse’s mind. “‘Get out. I want to be in there.’”

Laird Angus, called Ripley, approached, standing up a slight incline, regarding the other two.

“Look at Ripley,” said Lee. “He’s like, ‘You all need to move.’”

“Stevie’s like, ‘Don’t touch me. We’re not friends. Can’t you see we’re doing something?’” said Dalton.

“Ripley’s going to make a move,” said Lee. “I guarantee it.”

The 23-year-old Ripley made a move, edging closer to the other two. They shifted away from the mud puddle.

“Wow, Ripley,” said Dalton, “you really went all the way down there to say no?”

If the managers ever sense real danger in horses’ interactions, they intervene. When hay is out, for example, they monitor who’s on which bale, and if horses begin to fight over certain bales. For the most part, they work things out.

“They have to establish a friend group,” Dalton said. “It’s harsh for us to see when they correct each other, but to the

What a team! Trainer Cyril Murphy & owner Irv Naylor



BELFAST BANTER (Ire) wins
G1 A.P. Smithwick July 19



McTIGUE (Ire) wins
Jonathan Kiser S August 2



GOLD CHARM (Ire) wins
Randolph Rouse S August 11

As of August 11, Cyril Murphy boasted a 38% win rate and 85% WPS rate

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The eleventh annual Unsung Hero Award will again be given this year in honor of Joe Kelly.

Joe was the first and only publicist for the Jim McKay Maryland Million Day racing program.

As a close friend of founder Jim McKay he was involved from the introduction of the concept in 1985 until his death in 2012. He was a mentor to writers, horsemen and fans alike, and loved our sport from his early days as a sports writer.

Joe Kelly embodied the character of the unsung hero. He was quiet and unassuming, and never sought personal attention or credit, yet was a role model for many. With this award his memory lives on, and is acknowledged annually on Jim McKay Maryland Million Day.

Your unsung hero candidate should embody characteristics that are valuable, but often go unrewarded. He or she should be honest, hardworking and humble. They should inspire and set a good example through their principles and actions.

To nominate your candidate you can request a nomination form by contacting the Maryland Million Ltd. office – either by phone, 410-252-2100 ext. 110, or e-mail bremsberg@marylandthoroughbred.com – or go to the Maryland Million website at MarylandMillion.com.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Has demonstrated a particular commitment, impact or contribution to the Thoroughbred industry or equine community in general
- Has been involved in the Thoroughbred industry in Maryland for at least five years

Nominations are due by September 24

“They have independence, and it makes a world of difference. These guys are a joy to handle compared to any other horse jobs I’ve ever had.”

– *Alex Lee, assistant farm manager*

horses that’s normal talking. That’s them getting a chance to speak horse with other horses.”

Both believe that the farm horses are content in their herds, and not needing to work or be brought into a stall.

“They have independence, and it makes a world of difference,” said Lee. “These guys are a joy to handle compared to any other horse jobs I’ve ever had,”

Today, things are quiet. The horses are healthy and enjoying the sunshine. But given the age and, sometimes, pre-existing conditions of the population they tend, Dalton and Lee often face tough days. They notice which horses struggle to stand, or to lie down, and start worrying. Questions are always there. What if they were to fall down and couldn’t get back up? And the day that they fall it’s snowing, or sleeting? They work with veterinarians to try to end horses’ lives before those days.

“Better a month early than a day late,” Lee said. “It’s incredibly taxing emotionally.”

She keeps a scrapbook to remember the ones who die, but also knows it’s part of the job.

“Unfortunately, you get better at being stronger for them,” Dalton said. “We try not to cry or act like anything’s wrong until they’re completely under and no longer conscious. Then we can let it out. But until then we try to be as normal as possible. It’s just a regular day. So they’re not suspicious of anything.”

Dalton and Lee think often about their roles working at a rescue in the Thoroughbred aftercare world, something that



“Burt” (foreground) strolls past (from left) Wild and Royal, Heavy Horton, Angel Flash and Bi Flash.

not everyone understands. They wish they had more win pictures. It can be difficult to see aged horses’ Jockey Club numbers vanish as they age.

In a larger, not breed-specific sense, she said, “People underestimate how many horses do have to be put down because they can’t even make it to the rescues. The more we’ve worked here the more we know some people would be horrified to hear how bad it is for horses that slip out of caring hands. It happens so quickly,” said Dalton. “It’s so easy for a horse to slip into neglect, and more people need to be talking about it.”

The TRF position is a job of course, but there’s much more to it.

“I genuinely love these horses,” said Lee. “The only sad part is that when you work with [younger horses] you dream about what they could do. With these horses, you dream about what they could have been.”

Every horse at Front Royal is what they are. And OK with it.

The sun climbed higher in the sky. In the Big Pond field, Savealife, a 24-year-old California-bred gelding whose five starts came at Rockingham Park and Suffolk Downs, stretched his head over the fence, investigating a visitor. Behind him, several horses walked in a nose-to-tail procession toward the shade trees. Ripley stood on a small rise, surveying the scene. Then he joined the line, seeming to hustle the others along, his tail swishing easily back and forth. ■



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True Calling

CHARLES TOWN'S ESPINOSA BLENDS INTERESTS IN TRACK ANNOUNCER JOB

By John Piassek

It's a sunny, if humid, late spring evening at Charles Town Races, nestled in the Shenandoah Valley of West Virginia, right on the Virginia border. As post time for the first race approaches, Paul Espinosa Jr. heads up the stairs of the grandstand, then makes his way to his booth. Once there, he fires up his computer, looks at the changes for the night's eight-race program, and marks his program accordingly.

With 30 minutes to post, he plays the recording of the national anthem ("you could call me the bugler, in addition to all my other roles," he jokes) and prepares to read off the night's changes.

"Once again, a good evening to you! Thank you for joining us here at Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races for this Thursday night of racing action! Another eight-race card in store for you this evening, and the first post time is just over a half-hour from now!"

• • •

It's a routine Espinosa has practiced thousands of times over the last eight seasons. The voice of the track since 2016 provides crisp, accurate commentary of the action to West Virginia racing fans and an increasingly large simulcast audience. His largest audience came Aug. 25, when he announced the Charles Town Classic-G2 and the Charles Town Oaks-G3 on the track's most-watched day.

Espinosa is more than just another voice. His family has been involved with racing at Charles Town for generations, in the front office and on the backstretch. As a local native and fan of sports announcers growing up, he may have seemed

destined for the booth at his home track, but he took a slightly unorthodox road to get there.

Born in 1989, Espinosa grew up around the track. His great-grandfather, Sam Gilman, would ship horses from Charles Town to Mexico City, and vice versa. Gilman brought horses who bled to Mexico City, and in the higher altitude, they would not bleed and subsequently turn in more impressive performances. Paul's grandfather, Victor Espinosa, a native of Mexico, was a top local rider for many years and has been a trainer since 1982. In 1969, Victor won the Tri-State Futurity aboard Proud John in a 16-1 upset, giving owner/breeder James W. Casey and his wife Eleanor the first of many Charles Town stakes victories.

"He told me that, as a schoolteacher at the time, he was making around \$5,000 a year, and when he won the Tri-State Futurity, he ended up making \$40,000 or something," said Paul of Casey, who died in January. "That's sort of what started their Taylor Mountain empire. Mr. Casey always looked after my grandfather, whether it was stallion seasons or whatnot."

As a trainer, Victor has saddled 671 winners with purse earnings of more than \$5 million, and remains active with a small stable. In 1991 and 1994, he won West Virginia Breeders Classics races with his mare Noble's Honey, who finished second twice against males in the years in between. Forever My Friend, who won the 1995 Winner's Entertainment Breeders Classic (the year it was run at Mountaineer), was bred by Victor's wife Faye and owned by his daughter Mindy.

Paul's father, Paul Espinosa Sr., worked as the track's director of marketing and public relations in the late 1980s and early 1990s, and is now the Speaker Pro Tempore of the



West Virginia House of Delegates. Paul Sr.'s brother, Victor Jr., worked at Equibase for many years as the vice president of sales. Paul Jr.'s maternal uncle, Jeff Weller, also trained for a few years and saddled Chilly Hollow Baby to victory in the 1993 Schweppes U.S.A. Breeders Classic. His aunts, Michelle and Mindy, help his grandfather around the barn.

Paul's not kidding when he quips, "It's definitely a family affair."

His parents met thanks to a horse named Include Me In, purchased by Victor Jr. at the Fasig-Tipton horses of racing age sale at Belmont Park in November 1984.

"My mom had been interested in my dad, and our two families knew each other through racing, and there was a share that was available of this horse. My mom owned a quarter of the horse, and my grandma owned another quarter. From there, the rest is history."

Include Me In went on to win seven times at Charles Town, in a career that lasted until 1987.

The 2001 Kentucky Derby-G1, won by Monarchos in near-record time, piqued Espinosa's interest in racing and sports announcers.

"Tom Durkin's call of the race was absolutely superb," Espinosa said. "I'd ride my bike around the neighborhood saying, 'Here comes Monarchos!' Ever since then, hearing Tom and a lot of other announcers kind of shaped my appreciation for the craft. Dave Rodman is also near the top. There was a Maryland replay show that would air on Home Team Sports, and I'd listen to Dave there. Really, anything in racing after the 2001 Derby, I was watching."

His favorite horse growing up was his grandfather's homebred Shenandoah Harley, named for the family dog. A member of the second crop of then-Country Life Farm stallion Malibu Moon, Shenandoah Harley earned \$238,187 in a 29-race career and placed in four stakes. Paul keeps a picture of Shenandoah Harley's maiden win in the booth.

"That was the horse he and I bonded over the most," said Paul. "That was when the racing bug really bit me. With that horse and getting to follow his career, I was all-in. He was a special horse."

Espinosa was always interested in announcers of all sports.

"I watched a lot of sports growing up. My babysitter in the summer was *SportsCenter* reruns, and I played all the sports video games," said Espinosa. "There was always something about certain announcers that stuck out."

Despite his love of the sport and his connections around the track, he never seriously considered it as a career.

"I followed a lot of sports, and certainly racing was among them, but it never clicked for me that it would be an employment possibility," said Espinosa. "I kind of knew it was certainly possible, but it was never a thing where it was, 'This is definitely what I want to do.'"

In eighth grade, Espinosa took over as the sports reporter for his middle school's morning announcements, doing recaps of how the school teams did. Espinosa pursued television throughout high school and studied broadcasting at West Virginia University, graduating in 2011. He spent three years working at WHAG in Hagerstown (now known as WDVM), first on the news desk, then in the sports department, taking every opportunity he could to cover racing. He then went to Lexington, Ky., to pursue a career in real estate with his aunt, a successful agent.



"My main role was to unlock doors for prospective buyers; she handled most of the heavy lifting," said Espinosa. "I figured out pretty quickly that sales weren't for me. I was a bit too honest for my own good."

During his time at WVU, Espinosa occasionally worked as Charles Town's on-air handicapper for major races, and worked in the racing office for a summer, but still did not seriously consider a career in racing. That changed in summer 2015, when, scrolling through his Twitter feed, he heard about a race-calling contest at Del Mar. The California track told prospective announcers to submit calls of American Pharoah's win in the 2014 Del Mar Futurity. They would then invite three finalists to Del Mar Aug. 15, when their calls would be judged by a panel. The winner would get to call a race at the prestigious seaside oval that day.

Espinosa had never officially called a race, his only experience coming when calling races while playing video games. Still, his love of racing and broadcasting inspired him to take a shot.

"It was sort of a 'What do you have to lose?' type of thing," said Espinosa. "It could be cool to get a trip out to Del Mar. I wasn't thinking of it from a career standpoint, I was think-

ing of it more as, 'Well, let's see how it goes and if I'm lucky enough to be selected, anything is possible.'"

He recorded his call late at night at his real-estate office, submitted it and received an offer to travel to Del Mar a few weeks later.

"When I got there, I didn't know for sure that I'd be the one calling it, I just knew I'd be traveling out to Del Mar," said Espinosa. "On the flight out there, I started coloring my iPad with the silks of the horses in the contest race. That way, I knew if I'd be selected, I'd be ready."

The morning of the race, Espinosa's call and those of the other finalists were placed before a four-announcer panel which included Del Mar's Trevor Denman and Travis Stone from Churchill Downs.

Espinosa won the contest and prepared to call the last race on the program.

"I guess mine made their ears bleed the least," he said.

It was a trial-by-fire type of call for Espinosa. The race featured 12 maidens going a mile on grass. To top it off, the race would start in the sunset, making it more difficult than usual to see the runners.

"I hate letting people down and I hate screwing up more than I enjoy succeeding, so I really wanted to get it right," said



“I hate letting people down and I hate screwing up more than I enjoy succeeding, so I really wanted to get it right.”

– *Paul Espinosa Jr., about calling his first live race at Del Mar in 2015*

Espinosa. “I still can’t go back and listen to the first half of that race without cringing, but toward the back end of the call, I started to settle into it a little bit and started rattling off some names.”

Artisticdifference surged on the far outside and nailed future Grade 1 winner Illuminant on the wire, in a photo that was too close to call.

“At the end of it, I was like, ‘If I decided to do this, I could see myself enjoying it and being all right at it,’ said Espinosa. “It wasn’t a gimme race, and I didn’t get devoured too badly.”

He was also thrilled to have Denman in the booth with him during the race.

“Denman’s on the Mount Rushmore [of announcers] for me, so having him right over my shoulder was great. He was awesome and very supportive.”

The timing couldn’t have been better. Later in 2015, Espinosa filled in for a few dates at Charles Town when the announcer of 16 years, Jeff Cerink, needed time off.

“Shortly afterward, they parted ways with Jeff,” said Espinosa. “I didn’t know it at the time, but it was sort of an audition. I thought of it as a chance to announce some more and put some more calls on my reel.”

When Cernik officially left Charles Town in late 2015, a local opportunity opened. Erich Zimny, then the vice president of racing, and Charlie McIntosh, now the director of racing, then the racing secretary, paid attention to Espinosa’s calls and they were impressed.

“He was the paddock-show host for the first few years, and he did a great job,” Zimny said. “He presented the information clearly and was very relatable to the audience.”

“We heard that he was going to be calling at Del Mar, so we all tuned in,” said McIntosh, “When the race was over, I called Erich and said, ‘We’ve got to get this guy locked down before somebody else does.’”

In the end, management hired the hometown kid as the new race caller. Espinosa’s first official day as the Charles Town announcer came on Jan. 7, 2016.

In addition to announcing, Espinosa also handles the morning-line odds and does some posts on track social media accounts.

“When I started, I was mostly in charge of everything on the Charles Town pages, but now Grand Slam Social does most of our stuff,” he said. “For a big race, I’ll go down and get video of the horses in the paddock and post the replay, while they’ll handle more of the evergreen stuff.”

He also helps send out the track’s press releases.

Espinosa cites West Virginia-bred Runnin’toluvya’s win in the 2019 Charles Town Classic as his favorite moment in the booth.

“The noise the crowd made that day after that moment, it was almost our version of the American Pharoah crowd after the Belmont,” he said. “Everyone was going nuts and knew exactly what had happened. I haven’t broken down in tears after a call, but this was the closest I came to that.”

A year prior, another West Virginia-bred favorite, Late Night Pow Wow, won the Charles Town Oaks-G3, giving Espinosa one more memorable moment.

“[Those two] definitely stick out, showing that the little guys can hang with the big boys and girls,” he said. “Those two are definitely special.”

He has also called some of his grandfather’s winners, most recently Key to the Castle’s maiden score April 20.

“Those races always warm my heart,” he said. “It’s a tough feeling to describe, but when I get to call one of those, it’s pretty darn cool.”

With the exception of the Del Mar call and a few days filling in at Churchill Downs and Ellis Park, Espinosa has only called on Charles Town’s 6-furlong oval.

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"Based on that limited experience, I can say Charles Town is a great place to call," he said. "It's a smaller track, so you can see everything. We match the jockey caps to the saddle towel, with the exception of the Classic and the Oaks, which is nice. If I'm in a pinch and I don't know where a horse is, I can easily look, purple cap is the 10 horse, blue cap is the 3 horse, and so on.

"I don't know if this is a good thing or a bad thing, but with the short stretch, there's not as much time to tell the stretch story. When I was at Churchill, when they came to the top of the stretch, the stretch run took quite some time. I'm also not too far off the ground, I'm a little bit behind the wire, but I have a pretty good angle and a fairly unobstructed view. From an Xs and Os standpoint, it's a nice place to call."

Espinosa considers his familiarity with the track an advantage. If it's a field of familiar faces, he can memorize the whole field in seconds. Unlike many announcers, he doesn't color in his program, rather relying on the printed names and his memory to get him through.

"I get to call the same horses all the time," he said, "and when you see them going over and over again, you get used to it."

Short-term recollection, a must-have skill for any announcer, is something Espinosa had to hone upon his arrival.

"It was definitely a big part of it," he said. "That was honestly the part [of the job] that I was most worried about. My idea was to make sure I was prioritizing accuracy: making sure that you're calling every horse, calling them the right name, and once you had that part down, then I could start working on adding more flair and color and stuff like that."

...

After introducing the six-horse field for the evening's first race, Espinosa gets to work on memorization. He rapidly says each horse's name while looking at them through his high-powered binoculars.

"Rocking to Home, Rocking to Home, Rocking to Home... Just a Flirt, Just a Flirt, Nice But Naughty, Nice But Naughty, Just a Flirt..."

That sort of behavior would look unusual to anyone out of context, but within a minute, Espinosa has everyone's names locked down.

Espinosa sets his binoculars toward the backstretch, as the field makes its way to the gate for the 4½-furlong dash.

"I feel like the 4½ furlong races are a little bit easier," he said. "It's over pretty quickly, so you don't have time to say much." The field approaches the gate and loads quickly, without

much drama. "Last one to load, Bobbys Case Load...they're in the gate."

The starter sends them on their way, and Espinosa gets into the groove. He rattles off the race's pertinent information, as Two Room School sets the early pace and opens up on the others.

By the time the field turns for home, Two Room School is well in front, and Espinosa starts to wrap up.

"Two Room School has flown for home, opens up by 5 with a furlong left to run! Just a Flirt trying to get going up into second, but still a long way away from Two Room School and Kelvin Morales, gonna take this field gate-to-wire in the opener, they romp home by half a dozen lengths!" Rocking to Home and Just a Flirt hit the wire together for second, but Espinosa doesn't try to call the photo. And with that, another Charles Town race call is in the books.

...

Charles Town management, past and present, is effusive in its praise of Espinosa.

"One of Paul's biggest strengths is his very unique skillset. He worked for a local TV station for a while, he has experience with filming, writing, editing, and I thought he'd bring a lot to the table, not just as an announcer, but he'd use his skills to help promote us, as he's done," said Zimny. "His family's been ingrained in the racetrack's story, that it's more than just a job for him. He cares about the track, he cares about how it's perceived, he wants it to do well, and he's able to channel that into all his work. That's what makes him so good."

"He puts a lot of emotion into his calls," said McIntosh. "You go back and listen to his Charles Town Classic and West Virginia Breeders Classic calls, you'll see he has lots of passion and is very accurate. We couldn't be more pleased with him. He's an invaluable part of the team."

Espinosa considers it a thrill to become the public face of West Virginia racing, especially as a hometown product.

"From my standpoint, there's something about people in West Virginia. We love our state, and to play a role in some way of raising our profile, letting them know we have a nice product here. We've taken leaps and bounds in terms of safety here, and we have a product we can be proud of.

"I'm very happy with the strides we've taken here, and I know I've been a small part of what we've done. What Erich and Charlie have done to get us here has been amazing, and I certainly hope we can carry it into the future." ■



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Shore Thing

MANDELLA WINS SECOND HASKELL WITH GEAUX ROCKET RIDE

By Cindy Deubler ■ Photographs by Equi-Photo Inc.

Trainer Richard Mandella built a Hall of Fame career from his California base, winning 88 Grade 1 races through mid-August, sweeping four of the eight Breeders' Cup races in 2003 and training the likes of Beholder, Pleasantly Perfect, The Tin Man, Gentlemen (Arg) and dozens of other stars.

But his record in Monmouth Park's signature race might be as impressive. Mandella horses have contested the Grade 1 Haskell just twice – 23 years apart. Both won. In 2000, Dixie Union conquered the summer 3-year-old stakes. This year, Geaux Rocket Ride ruled the New Jersey fixture.

Pin Oak Stud's bay Candy Ride (Arg) colt earned the cross-country journey by winning the Affirmed Stakes at Santa Anita in June, just his third start. With its \$1 million purse, the Haskell beckoned and Geaux Rocket Ride joined a field of eight. Favoritism fell to Arabian Knight from the barn of Bob Baffert, a Californian with nine Haskell victories in his Hall of Fame career. Once a high-profile Triple Crown contender after he won his first two starts with ease, Arabian Knight went to the sidelines after a 5½-length score in Oaklawn Park's Southwest Stakes-G3 in January. Kentucky Derby-G1 winner Mage was the second choice in his first start since finishing third in the Preakness-G1. He'd been putting in works at Lexington's The Thoroughbred Center. In retrospect, trainer Gustavo Delgado said, "I think that five works, six works would have been better, but I had only four [going in]."

Also getting more play than Mandella's runner were the Todd Pletcher-trained Tapit Trice, last seen when third in the Belmont Stakes-G1; Brad Cox-trained Salute the Stars, another son of Candy Ride on a three-win streak and winner of





“He’s only going to get better . . . This was the deepest Haskell field I’ve seen in a long time. For him to perform that way is a credit to Mr. Mandella and his whole crew.”

– *Jockey Mike Smith,*
about Geaux Rocket Ride

Monmouth’s Pegasus in his prior start; and Steve Asmussen-trained Extra Anejo, a winner of two of his three starts.

Early in 2023, Mandella had Geaux Rocket Ride gearing up for the Triple Crown trail. The \$350,000 Fasig-Tipton July yearling purchase won his debut in January and finished second in the Grade 2 San Felipe in March. Mandella and owners Jim and Dana Bernhard aimed for the Santa Anita Derby-G1. A fever knocked him out of the race and halted the trip to Kentucky.

With Geaux Rocket Ride attempting his first Grade 1 in the Haskell, Mandella said leading up to the July 22 running, “I was waiting for the right horse. We think this is the right horse for the right race at the right time.”

Mike Smith picked up the ride on Geaux Rocket Ride and worked him several times.

“There is no man better to have this horse in his hands than Mr. Mandella,” Smith said after the 1¼-length victory. “He’s only going to get better. . . This was the deepest Haskell field I’ve seen in a long time. For him to perform that way is a credit to Mr. Mandella and his whole crew. Of course, Geaux Rocket Ride deserves all the credit, too.”

It was the fourth win in six Haskell rides for the 57-year-old Smith (he’s also been second twice), joining Authentic in 2020, Coronado’s Quest (1998) and Holy Bull (1994).

Longshot Awesome Strong set the pace, pressured by an eager Arabian Knight through an opening quarter in :22.80. By the half, Arabian Knight dragged John Velazquez to the front, maintaining the position ahead of a bunched field down the backstretch. Going into the far turn the running began in earnest.

Geaux Rocket Ride took off after the leader and caught him with a quarter-mile to go. Mage built steam a few lengths

back, came four wide entering the stretch and joined Geaux Rocket Ride as they straightened away and Arabian Knight dropped out of it. For a moment Mage’s momentum looked to have gotten him to the front, but Geaux Rocket Ride answered the challenge and drew off. Mage finished 2 lengths ahead of Arabian Knight, who was 2 lengths better than Extra Anejo. The 17th Haskell starter for Baffert, Arabian Knight kept the trainer’s record intact of never having a starter finish worse than third.

After the race, Mandella said: “As smart as that looks, the honest truth is that I’m 72 years old and I thought, ‘I’m not going to let this get away from me. I’m going to go again.’ ”

In recording his third win in four starts, Geaux Rocket Ride increased his earnings to \$780,200. He is the first horse purchased by the Bernhards, who bought two others at the Kentucky sale. Jim Bernhard, founder and partner of the private equity firm Bernhard Capital Partners in Baton Rouge, La., bought the colt as a birthday present for his wife. A little more than a year later the Bernhards purchased the late Josephine Abercrombie’s Pin Oak Stud in Versailles, Ky.

As part of the Breeders’ Cup Challenge Series, the Haskell earned Geaux Rocket Ride an entry in the Classic at Santa Anita – a home game for Mandella and his horse, who was being pointed to a start against older horses in the Pacific Classic-G1 Sept. 2.

Therapist wins United Nations

Mandella had a runner for the race immediately before the Haskell, the Grade 1 United Nations. It was a race the trainer was familiar with, having won in 1995 and 1996 with Sandpit (Brz) at its original location, Atlantic City Race Course, during the years the race was named the Caesars International Handicap.

This year’s 70th United Nations, worth \$600,000, saw Michael Dubb’s 8-year-old Therapist record his first Grade 1 victory with the upset over favorite Catnip. Mandella’s Planetario (Brz), winner of the San Juan Capistrano-G3 at Santa Anita in his previous outing, lost a three-horse photo for third and wound up fifth.

Under Javier Castellano, Therapist got into gear in the 1⅜-mile turf test rounding the far turn and kept grinding to oust Catnip in deep stretch and pull away by 1½ lengths. It was the first time the New York-bred son of Freud tackled Grade 1 company; he gained his first graded success in Gulfstream Park’s Pan American-G2 April 1. The United Nations win pushed his career earnings to \$1,353,815 in 42 starts. He won the 2017 Laurel Futurity as a 2-year-old for owner/breeder Oak Bluff Stables and was a regular in state-bred stakes com-



Therapist heads for home in the Grade 1 United Nations on the Haskell undercard.

pany. Risked for an \$80,000 claiming tag last September, he was claimed by trainer George Weaver who lost the horse via a \$25,000 claim by trainer Martin Drexler at Gulfstream Park Dec. 30. Dubb and trainer Mike Maker dropped a \$50,000 slip Jan. 20 and Therapist won three of his next five while earning \$524,620.

It was the third consecutive United Nations for Dubb, who co-owned Tribhuvan (Fr) and Adhamo (Ire). Maker recorded his third win, following Bigger Picture (2017) and Aquaphobia (2020).

Haskell Notes

Attendance was 35,286, the largest recorded since 2018, and betting was a Haskell day record \$21,359,642 . . . Chad Brown turned out four winners on the card, led by Klaravich Stables' **Consumer Spending** in the Grade 3 WinStar Matchmaker Stakes, which includes breeding seasons to the top three finishers courtesy of WinStar Farm – Global Campaign, Independence Hall and Improbable. It was the fourth consecutive Matchmaker win for Brown (and seventh in nine years). The barn won the first and last races on the 14-race card with maidens from Brown's Monmouth base overseen by Luis Cabrera . . . **Proxy**, one of the top older horses in the country, returned to Monmouth for the first time since

October 2020, when he was second in a maiden special weight in his debut. The shortest-priced winner on the card (at 2-5) got the job done in the Grade 3 Monmouth Cup, winning by 2½ lengths after setting every fraction. "He's never been on the lead in his life," said trainer Mike Stidham. "Then he dug in and class came through in the end." Godolphin's homebred Grade 1 winner surpassed the \$2 million mark with the win, his sixth in 18 starts . . . The 77th Molly Pitcher Stakes-G3, one of five graded races on the card and worth \$500,000, went to **Shotgun Hottie**. The 4-year-old Gun Runner filly, owned by Omar Aldabbagh and Jeff Ganje and trained by Cherie DeVaux, made her third start of the meet, all stakes. Since May she was third in the Serena's Song and won the Lady's Secret. She ran once at Monmouth last year when second in the Monmouth Oaks-G3 . . . Shotgun Hottie was ridden by **Paco Lopez**, Monmouth Park's leading rider, who through mid-August had nearly twice as many wins as Jairo Rendon in second (62-32) . . . **Claudio Gonzalez** had a substantial lead in the trainer ranks with 35 wins (through mid-August) and the earners of more than \$1 million. Brown's runners earned more, with nearly \$1.2 million . . . **Klaravich Stables** was leading the charge among owners with 12 wins (from 22 starts) and more than \$700,000. ■

Climbing the Ladder

MONTOYA, GRAHAM FIND STAKES WINS WITH QUALITY 3-YEAR-OLDS

By John Piassek

July 29 was a big day for smaller barns at Laurel Park. Parx-based Marya Montoya and Laurel-stabled Robin Graham, with 25 horses and eight wins for the year between them heading into the day, swept the two stakes for Maryland-bred or Maryland-sired 3-year-olds on the card. Montoya's Talk to the Judge held on to win the Miss Disco Stakes by a head, while Graham's Super Accelerate won his third in a row in the Star de Naskra Stakes.

For Montoya, it was her first stakes win since 2018, while Graham's last trip to a stakes winner's circle came in 2016.

Montoya's path started on the Parx backstretch. Her father, Dennis Heimer, was the all-time leading trainer at the track then known as Philadelphia Park at the time of his sudden passing in 1989. Montoya took out her trainer's license a few years later and won her first race with Lil Killer in August 1997. She connected with Waldorf Racing Stable's David Wright several years ago.

"He wanted a woman trainer, and he came [to the barn at Parx] unannounced," said Montoya, "and there I am, on my hands and knees, working with the horses hands-on, and he said, 'If you're interested in training horses for me, give me a call, and I'd like to talk more.'"

Wright, an investment manager originally from the Philadelphia area, founded his stable – named for his late terrier whose likeness appears on the Waldorf silks – in 2011. He hit it off with Montoya, and in 2018, she sent Waldorf's Follow the Dog to victory in the Maryland Million Nursery.

"I've won a few stakes races," said Wright, "but that Maryland Million win, that was really special. It's the highlight for me as an owner so far."

Montoya takes a personal approach to her 13-horse operation, which Wright considers a major part of their success. She and her husband Ross (an exercise rider and also a member

of the Parx gate crew) do much of the work along with a few grooms and hotwalkers.

"My husband Ross is like my right-hand man," said Montoya. "We're very hands-on. We like to keep it on the smaller side, that way, you don't miss as much. We've gotten up to 23, and then it becomes a little too much."

"She's completely dedicated to her horses and is very conservative," said Wright about his trainer. "I really like that combination."

Wright purchased Talk to the Judge, bred by Tom and Chris Bowman, privately as a yearling.

"She had a really strong female family," Wright said about his filly, whose third dam, Gin Talking, was the 2000 Maryland-bred Horse of the Year. "Foals [out of] her dam [Talkin Smack] for the most part are winners at 2, and I thought that was a good sign."

Wright is also a fan of her sire, Northview Stallion Station's Golden Lad, and envisioned his filly as a possible Maryland star. Talk to the Judge joined Montoya's barn last June, and the trainer soon found she had an energetic filly on her hands.

"She was very rambunctious, very tough, liked to buck a lot," said Montoya. "We never put a jockey on her [in the morning] until after her 2-year-old year, because she would just breeze too fast."

Montoya relayed a story of a gate workout at Parx, where she asked owner Joe Imbesi and trainer Guadalupe Preciado if her unraced 2-year-old filly could go in company with a set from their barn.

"I had my exercise rider, Guadalupe had two jocks, and they broke out, and my horse was strangled back then walked away from them," Montoya said.

Preciado and Imbesi were impressed.



SNYDER

Talk to the Judge prevails in the Miss Disco Stakes for trainer Marya Montoya.

"That can't be a baby, that's got to be an older horse," Imbesi told Montoya. "That rider never moved and she just walked away from mine."

"Joe, that's a 2-year-old filly," Montoya said. Talk to the Judge had outworked Gordian Knot, who wound up the champion Pennsylvania-bred 2-year-old male of 2022.

Talk to the Judge broke her maiden on debut at Parx last August, winning by $3\frac{1}{4}$ lengths, but was unnerved prior to her next start in the Small Wonder Stakes at Delaware Park and showed little.

"We took her to Delaware, and she half-flipped over because the train came by and it got her rattled. I don't think she really liked the surface there, speed wasn't holding, but Mychel [Sanchez] was determined to send her anyway. I think she ran her race before the race started."

After a third in November, Talk to the Judge was given some time off. She returned to the races a winner at Parx in late April, but was third in a June allowance next out at Delaware and well-beaten in the Blue Sparkler Stakes at Monmouth Park in her turf debut July 15.

"She didn't run a jump," Montoya said of the turf try under jockey Abner Adorno. "She came back and she wasn't

blowing. He got off and said, 'I really think she didn't like the turf.'"

Despite the two-week turnaround, Wright and Montoya decided to press on to the Miss Disco.

"The race at Monmouth didn't take much out of her, but I said [to Wright], 'I can't give you an answer today [about the Miss Disco], call me in a week. We'll nominate and go from there.' We walked her, galloped her, and she acted great. She was eating everything, and wanted to play on the track a little bit. I said, 'You know what, I think we should go ahead and enter her.'"

There were some concerns about the hot weather at Laurel Park that day, which saw the track implement accelerated post times and shorter post parades, among other safety measures.

"I told the groom, let me know if she's washed out, because if she is, we might just turn around and go home," said Montoya. "She was cool as a cucumber when she got there, nice and relaxed, so we decided to run."

Talk to the Judge broke well under Victor Carrasco and set the pace, lasting through early pressure. Although Liquidator challenged her in the stretch, Talk to the Judge fought back gamely and won by a head.

“His body and brain had to catch up with each other . . . We finally got him to learn how to carry himself better, and he’s just matured.”

– *Trainer Robin Graham, about Super Accelerate*

“The seven-eighths has always worried me, because she’s one of those who goes quick,” said Montoya. “She’s hard to rate, so I knew she’d do a :45 or a :46 for the half. Turning for home, it looked like they were starting to swallow her up. She dug in and her heart showed a lot that day, so I was really impressed by her.”

Montoya was on-track for Talk to the Judge’s victory, but Wright watched on an airport runway en route to San Diego.

“The vacation was already planned, so that’s why I wasn’t at the race,” he said. “It was a nice way to start the flight.”

One race after the Miss Disco came the Star de Naskra. Super Accelerate took money throughout the betting and went off as the slight 2-1 favorite. This may have been a surprise to some, but not to Graham and owner Steven Walfish, who have been high on the Bowman and Higgins-bred son of Accelerate since the beginning.

Graham started her career on the backstretch in the 1980s, working for Barclay Tagg and Dickie Small among other trainers. In 1995, she struck out on her own and has trained graded stakes winners Gin Talking, Mr O’Brien (Ire), Jack’s in the Deck, Lady Sabelia and Dixie Talking. When Super Accelerate arrived at her barn, she thought he might join that roster.

“I’ve said from the beginning, he’s one of the nicest horses I’ve ever had,” she said, turning to a story from his first workout for jockey Horacio Karamanos.

“Robin, you’re right, this is a good horse,” Karamanos said when he came back.

“I know,” Graham replied.

“No, Robin, this is a REALLY good horse.”

He’s proven everyone right since.

Walfish, a pharmaceutical statistician based in Rockville, Md., has owned horses for 20 years. He got involved with syndicates, but soon branched out into owning them by himself. He spotted the colt at last year’s Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May 2-year-old sale.

“I was looking for a 2-year-old without a name, and I wanted to name a horse,” he said. “I had previously named a horse for

my mother, and I wanted to do the same thing for my father.” But this colt, already named, caught Walfish’s attention.

From Accelerate’s first crop, the colt returned a \$38,000 RNA, but Walfish purchased him privately for the reserve price of \$40,000 after Graham talked to consignor Crystal Pickett.

Though Graham and Walfish thought their colt might be a good one, it took awhile for talent and results to connect.

“His body and brain had to catch up with each other,” said Graham. “He’s been very, very solid mentally, but he’s a big, heavy, kind of clumsy horse. He used to be way on his front end, which used to worry me, because a colt who doesn’t balance himself well makes it hard on his knees and ankles. We finally got him to learn how to carry himself better, and he’s just matured. The whole thing’s worked out great; Steven’s been wonderful letting him mature and letting him come into himself.”

Super Accelerate lost three starts as a 2-year-old and opened 2023 with two more defeats. He turned everything around June 16 when he won a 7-furlong Laurel maiden by 5¼ lengths. In first-level allowance company July 1 at the same distance, he was sent to the post at 26-1.

“I don’t know how he was such a long price,” said Graham. “I was impressed with him when he broke his maiden, but for whatever reason, the Beyer numbers and stuff weren’t good, and no one could figure out why.”

He validated his connections’ belief with a 2¼-length victory.

“I wasn’t surprised, because he did exactly what he was supposed to do,” Graham said.

This time, the speed figure makers gave him his due, as he ran a 93 Beyer, a 96 Brisnet figure, and a 97 Equibase figure.

The Star de Naskra was the next logical step, and Super Accelerate continued his ascension in his stakes debut. In a similar performance to his allowance win, he drafted off the pace, swung wide entering the stretch, and fended off Easy Action to his inside and Coffeewithchris to his outside to secure the victory.

“I was very high on him going into that race,” said Walfish. “If he ran back to his previous number, there was no doubt he was going to get the job done. I was very convinced of that.”



JIM MCCUE

Super Accelerate wins Laurel's Star de Naskra Stakes in his stakes debut.

It was the owner's first stakes win.

"It feels great," he said. "It's truly a phenomenal feeling."

Graham saw progress for her new stakes winner coming into the Star de Naskra, and didn't rule out another step forward.

"He's been getting better each time and maturing," she said. "When Horacio rode him in the allowance, I think he was schooling him and practicing a little bit, sitting back off the speed, sitting behind horses to see if he would go when he pushed the button. It was a great practice race for him, and to be able to come back in the next race, going 7 furlongs, it worked great. It looked like there was a lot of speed in the race, and we knew he could sit back, relax, and kick in."

"We're sure he can go longer, I don't think he's just a sprinter, but the way it's worked, the 7 furlongs has hit the spot. I don't think he's limited at all."

Laurel Notes

Later on the July 29 card, **Be Better** came from off the pace to win the Deputed Testimony Stakes by 1¼ lengths over odds-on favorite Nimitz Class. The Mike Repole homebred son of Uncle Mo has won three times from five starts since joining the Brittany Russell barn this year . . . **Beguine** made short work of the Alma North Stakes field, leading all the

way and winning by 2¾ lengths for owner/breeder Charles Matses and trainer Ned Allard. Her time of 1:15.83 for 6½ furlongs was less than a second shy of the track record . . .

Lightening Larry made it three stakes in a row when he won the Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash by wearing down Wondrwherecraigis. The Jorge Delgado trainee was vanned off after the race but was reported to be in good shape the next day . . . Russell also won a pair of stakes earlier in the month, taking the Concern Stakes with **Prince of Jericho** July 1 and the Caesar's Wish Stakes with **Hybrid Eclipse** July 15. The July 1 card also saw **Coconut Cake** go last-to-first in the Jameela Stakes for Maryland-bred or Maryland-sired fillies and mares, and Pennsylvania-bred **Fore Harp** take the Laurel Dash on the lead. Coconut Cake was bred by Charles and Cynthia McGinnes and is owned by N R S Stable, James Chambers and trainer Tim Keefe. Fore Harp was bred by St. Omer's Farm and is the fourth stakes winner for his dam, the Disco Rico mare Katarica Disco. All four were sired by Pennsylvania stallion Weigelia and the mare's 11 starters have earned more than \$3.3 million. . . **Jamie Ness** led the way in the trainers' standings as of Aug. 7, with 23 winners from 62 starts . . . **Jaime Rodriguez** had 32 winners from 134 mounts as of Aug. 7 to lead the jockeys' race. ■

— Broker's Tip —

BY RICK ABBOTT

August and September – All Leaves Canceled

About 12 years ago, after we decided to sell our farm, we told clients we were entering into the long process of our retirement from the Thoroughbred business. We started to cut back on the horses on the farm, and we found ourselves at loose ends. Suddenly, we had some time on our hands and needed, of all things, hobbies.

Dixie, who had always had an artistic bent, got more serious about painting and sculpting and continued her long love affair with tennis. For me it was more complicated. If you own a farm, you have to be half a carpenter, half an electrician, half a plumber, and half a mechanic. In my case, I can do the plumbing, am scared to death of electricity and am the world's worst mechanic. I have never, in my life, gotten a chain saw to start. The carpentry, however, was quite fascinating to me. There is a logic and geometry to working with wood that gives great satisfaction. So I took up woodworking.

Dixie's art has taken its own direction and she now offers her paintings for sale at Art for Rescues at dixieabbott.com with all the proceeds going directly to Thoroughbred rescue organizations. I, on the other hand, have filled our house, as well as those of our children, with pieces made in my home woodshop. I like to say that I can go into my shop for as long as I want and completely lose myself in my latest project. When I've had enough, I close the door and walk away knowing that, whenever I return, the piece will be waiting for me exactly as I left it. It won't have died, it won't be colicky, and it won't have aborted its foal. That's a big selling point to a 40-year farm owner.

There is one thing woodworking and raising Thoroughbreds have in common – finishing. A piece of furniture can be beautifully made from the most exotic and interesting wood but if the finish is inexpertly applied it just sits there looking forlorn. In the same way, a beautifully bred and well-made yearling needs to be finished to perfection if it is going to stand out among a sale full of its peers. Whether one of 200 at Saratoga or 4,500 at Keeneland September, your yearling

needs to make an impression on some parts of the buying bench.

When we were inspecting yearlings together in Texas, Mason Grasty taught me to give two grades. Obviously, the first grade is for the horse's conformation and movement but the second is just as important and it involves the hair on the back of your neck. When the candidate walks out of its stall and looks you in the eye, does your hair stand up? Not every horse can have that effect, but sales preparation is the key to getting every horse as close as it can be to that standard.

These are the elements of exceptional sales prep: nutrition, hoof care, grooming and bathing, walking and handling, exercise and dedication to the task at hand. The great thing about horses is there are many ways to accomplish the same result and each individual will respond differently to those methods. Honestly, Dixie oversaw and accomplished this work as I was often away from the farm checking on horses being prepared by clients at their farms. I'm going to tell you how Dixie achieved what I think was the highest standard of excellence.

I'm not going to write about grooming and bathing except to say, bathe less, rub more. On nutrition I'll only say less protein, more alfalfa and on exercise I say, swim, pony, hand walk, lunge (as we did), or use a machine; the important thing is the first and most important rule, once you have started to prep, no matter when you start – never miss a day. I know you're running a farm with other horses living on it and I know that you have families and spouses who don't get it, but this is your job for the duration and the success of your year, and, maybe, your mortgage depends on you doing it right.

We always found that if the yearlings were in good flesh, their feet were looked after, and they had been kept out of the sun, we could prep them properly in 45 days. If they were underweight or had bleached-out coats it took considerably longer to prepare them to be prepared. One pet peeve – do whatever you can to prevent tail chewing, Vaseline and red pepper works in most cases. Look for the yearling with the

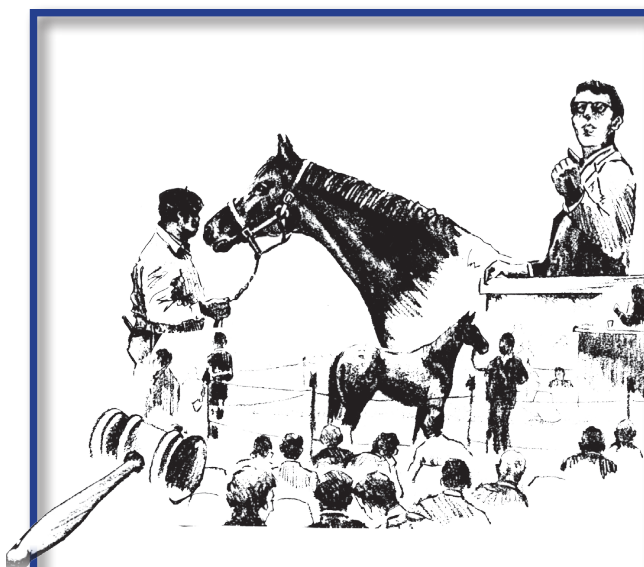
longest tail and get him or her out of the herd. Tails create the balance when you stand back and look at a sales horse. They take a year to grow back, and a chewed tail will knock 25 percent off a yearling's value.

The first thing a yearling, especially a colt, needs to learn is the concept of personal space. You have yours and he has his, so stay the hell out of each other's space. There is nothing more annoying than showing or looking at a horse that is all over the handler. When you are holding a horse, whether for the blacksmith, the vet, or for a prospective buyer he or she should stand quietly, away from its handler and enjoy the experience.

It's not necessary to have showing practice sessions; just handle the horse at all times as if a prospective buyer is looking. Make the horse walk briskly when being led and stand still when being worked on. This will translate into a horse who shows well at the sale.

The walk is the one and only gait a buyer sees at a yearling sale, so I guess it's pretty important. Working with a good blacksmith is vital. If your blacksmith has never done sales yearlings, ask him to accompany you to a sale and walk around with him. Point out the well-shod horses and let him see what you are asking him to accomplish. If he is unwilling to do that, look for another farrier because this one is too lazy to learn and he will ruin your business. Dixie had a long, collaborative relationship with ours. Kearney Hilliard had done her horses since she was a teen and when he slowed down T.R. Serio stepped in with enthusiasm and patience. They would watch horses walk up and down the barn aisle tweaking the trimming or grinding a shoe to get just the right break over to complement the horse's natural way of going. The joke was that they would work for hours and I would walk in and say, "I can sell that one."

One final note, hire good show people. Hire ones that are physically fit, fit the horses and have had experience at sales or shows. Tap into the network of itinerant sales workers that go from Kentucky to Ocala to Saratoga and Timonium; pay them well because they earn every penny working 12-hour days to make your yearlings look good. Without good people on the end of the shank you'll never experience the thrill of selling a sales topper. ■



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Four Pack of Murphy

MARYLAND TRAINER TEAMS UP WITH NAYLOR ON SUMMER WINNING STREAK

By Joe Clancy ■ Photographs by Tod Marks

Cyril Murphy won four races in one day – April 29, 2005 – at Atlantic City Race Course as a steeplechase jockey for trainer Tom Voss. His more recent string of four consecutive wins as a trainer was nothing like that.

“No, this is a bit different, a bit different,” Murphy said after the quartet of victories at Colonial Downs and Saratoga Race Course in July and August. “Luck has come our way. More than anything, things are amplified based on the numbers that we’re sending out. That’s what showcases it.”

The streak pushed Murphy’s 2023 statistics to six wins – to go with three seconds and three thirds – from just 14 starts by six horses all year. It’s a small sample size, but there’s no questioning the success for employers Diane and Irv Naylor.

“If some of the bigger stables were to do the same, it wouldn’t garner the same attention,” Murphy said. “We’ve only sent out four runners this summer and they’ve all won.”

Gold Charm (Ire) started the skein with a \$40,000 filly/mare maiden hurdle score at Colonial Downs July 14. She and jockey Barry Foley bided their time for 1½ miles, and rallied from last of six to win by 2¾ lengths. It was her second American start since being purchased by Murphy and agent J.D. Moore at the Tattersalls Horses in Training sale last fall.

Five days later, Belfast Banter (Ire) upset the \$150,000 A.P. Smithwick Memorial-G1 at Saratoga. Like Gold Charm, he sat off the pace in a field of nine, surged into contention while full of run on the final turn and drew off late by 6½ lengths for Foley. It was the first American win for the 8-year-old, imported for the 2022 season after three hurdle wins in Ireland and England, and his first of any kind since April 2021.

Two weeks after Belfast Banter, Murphy made the trip to Saratoga with McTigue (Ire) and the 4-year-old kept it rolling

with a win in the \$75,000 Jonathan Kiser novice hurdle stakes Aug. 2. With Gerard Galligan subbing for Foley, injured in a fall while schooling for another trainer, the 4-year-old hung on behind the pace set by Caramelised (GB) and advanced from third to win by 3¾ lengths. McTigue won once each in England and France in 2022, and captured his American debut by default when a rival went off course while well clear at the Virginia Gold Cup meeting May 6. The Kiser made it 2-for-2 for the son of Fracas (Ire).

Nine days after McTigue’s heroics, Gold Charm went one better than the boys in the barn with a 3-length knockout of the \$75,000 Randolph D. Rouse Stakes at Colonial Downs. Harrison Beswick rode the winner, whose performance looked much like her maiden win – last of seven early, she advanced on the final turn and pulled clear late to win by 3 lengths.

Murphy, of course, delighted in the wins but deflected credit to the timing and his horses.

“A happy, in-form horse is a big part of it,” he said in mid-August. “We see it every day here. When the feed comes out of the feed room, their heads are all out the door looking for it. That’s a good sign to a trainer. Their coats look good, they’re happy horses at the moment.”

Summer training isn’t easy on a Mid-Atlantic farm without a track or other all-weather galloping surface. The grass bakes in the sun. The fields get rough. You can’t predict the rain, if there is rain. Murphy and his four charges spent much of June improvising.

“Through June I didn’t think we were going to get to run because it had gotten so dry,” he said. “We don’t have a track; we train in the fields so we’re at the mercy of the weather. The rains came at the end of June and beginning of July and if anything, it ended up being a help to us. If we had that weather



Belfast Banter flies a fence early in his Grade 1 victory in the A.P. Smithwick Memorial at Saratoga in July.

in June, we'd probably have gotten ahead of ourselves and the horses wouldn't have peaked when they did. As it was, we were able to do enough to keep them exercising, but we didn't do any hard works. They really showed the benefit of having those few easier weeks leading into the month."

The horses jogged and cantered in the outdoor riding arena on the farm, used the hill for fitness, spent a couple hours a day turned out and – if all else failed – went for hacks along the roads and around the fields.

The four wins pushed the Naylor's to the top of the National Steeplechase Association standings with \$418,300 in purses earned through Aug. 17. A Maryland Hunt Cup win by the Kathy Neilson-trained Withoutmoreado (Ire) provided the spring highlight. Summer has been about Murphy's quartet.

Gold Charm's first win came in a maiden hurdle, off a second in her debut in May. She figured to run well. Belfast Banter shifted the gears with his Smithwick score.

The Grade 1 lacked overall firepower, but lured a field of nine topped by Grade 1 winner Noah And The Ark (Ire) and spring Grade 2 winner Welshman along with Saratoga winners Freddy Flintshire and Redicean (GB). Twice a



McTigue gave the Irv Naylor/Cyril Murphy team its third of four consecutive summer steeplechase victories.

winner this year, West Newton (GB) set the pace and was shadowed by Gordon's Jet (Ire) and Historic Heart (Ire) early while Belfast Banter dropped back to seventh. Still there with a lap to go, he jumped his way to fifth and was simply waiting his cue as the field left the backside the final time. Once in the clear, he kicked like a Grade 1 turf horse and won in hand after 2½ miles in 3:53.69.

Murphy credited the race flow, Saratoga's flat course and the timing.

"He's been waiting for a field of horses to run the way they did today to give himself a chance," Murphy said. "He's just a horse that needs a true run race over that distance. They need to be coming back as he's making his move forward. When it comes like it did today, his jumping is electric, Barry John only had one way of riding and that was where he went. It just all came together."

The win erased a string of nine consecutive losses, two in Ireland, one in England, six in America. His U.S. tries had all come in open stakes and he was well beaten by Snap Decision, Noah And The Ark and Irish raider Hewick (Ire) last year. The ship started to turn around this spring with thirds in the Temple Gwathmey (by 23¾ lengths) and David Semmes Memorial (by 3¾). Murphy liked the progress and circled Saratoga.

"He was on the back foot from the first day he came over," Murphy said. "he had generated a handicap rating mark in novice company there but wasn't a novice when he got here. He ran a race every day he ran, it just didn't come right for

him. Barry got off him [after the Semmes] and we both said at the same time, 'the A.P. Smithwick is the race if we can get him there.'"

They got him there, and he became a Grade 1 winner.

"With the trip, the weights and when the entries came out it just lit us up because you could see there was going to be some pace in the race," Murphy said. "He needed that. He finally got the race to set up the way he likes it. He was thrilled with himself. To win it the way he did, I was very happy for him."

Of course, horses being horses, the summer wasn't all positive as Belfast Banter went to the sidelines with a tendon injury diagnosed after a training session back home in Maryland and missed a start in the Jonathan Sheppard-G1 at the end of the Saratoga season.

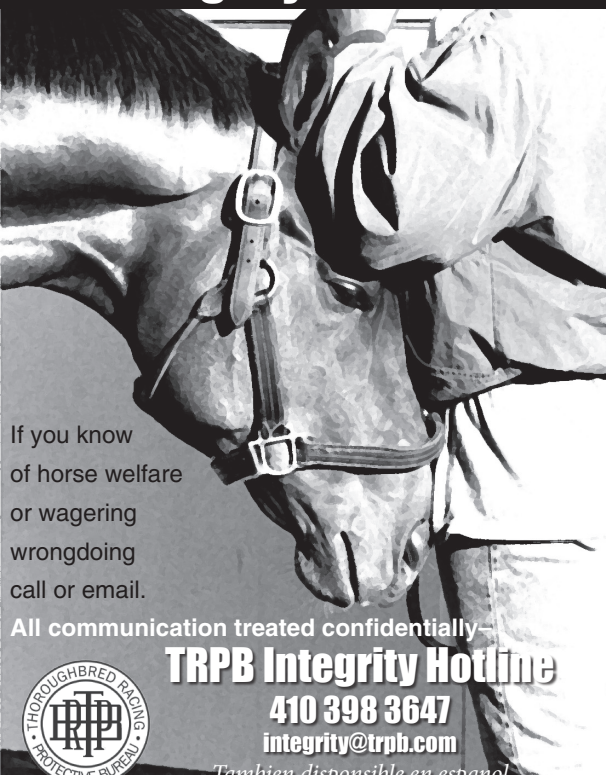
Murphy called it a "sucker punch," but also knows that's how a trainer's life can be.

"When you've only got seven in training and one of them gets a tendon you've only got six and it puts pressure on the rest of them," he said. "We'll do the best we can for them. McTigue and Gold Charm are 4-year-olds and have a lot in front of them."

Jumping Around

Weather played havoc with some scheduling at the two active summer racetracks, Virginia's Colonial Downs and New York's Saratoga, but the steeplechase circuit stayed active as a bridge between the spring and fall race meetings . . . Hudson River Farms' **L'Imperator (Fr)** won a Saratoga allowance hurdle for trainer Arch Kingsley July 26. The 6-year-old won a Grade 2 stakes on the flat for trainer Chad Brown in 2022 and put together two wins and two thirds in his first four starts over jumps . . . Colonial Downs winners included maiden victors **Cibolian** for Hudson River and Kingsley, **Triton Rise (Ire)** for Rolling Tide and Doug Fout, and **Pure Courage** for Gill Johnston and Todd Wyatt, and handicap winners **Go Poke the Bear** for trainer Leslie Young and Pennsylvania-bred **Junonia** for Kinross Corporation and trainer Neil Morris . . . The September schedule included Colonial Downs Sept. 1 and 8, Aqueduct Sept. 14 and the first race meet, Shawan Downs, Sept. 30 . . . October highlights come with New Jersey's Far Hills Races Oct. 21 and Virginia's International Gold Cup Oct. 28. Purses at Far Hills will be an NSA-best \$675,000. For more scheduling information, see nationalsteeplechase.com . . . Through Aug. 17, Young (22 wins) led the trainers' standings by a dozen over Jack Fisher. Beswick (10 wins) led Foley by one among the jockeys, but Foley is out for the season. Graham Watters (eight) was third. ■

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Sheila Williams, a perfect horse owner

There was never a better owner. To a jockey, she was in your corner, always supportive, never questioning. To a trainer, she was on your team, rooting for all the horses as hard as she rooted for hers. To a horse, of course, she was on your side, always finding solace in an effort and an oasis in retirement.

Sheila Janney Williams loved the game. A throwback, a purist, she campaigned horses on the flat and in steeplechasing. Most were trained by her son-in-law Jack Fisher at her home at Locust Hill Farm on Butler Road, near Glyndon, Md.

Williams died June 17. She was 86. Sadly, yes, an end of an era.

With more than \$1.5 million in earnings, Williams ranked 24th on the National Steeplechase Association's all-time owners' list. She partnered with Andre Brewster to campaign \$368,350 earner All Together and stakes winners Straight to It and Seer. Williams teamed up with Northwoods Stable on two-time novice stakes winner Special Skills and five-time stakes winner Storm Team.

On her own, Williams won Grade 3 stakes with Batchwood and Rare Bush. Homebred Brig won two turf stakes and \$199,746. The daughter of Two Punch traced back four generations at Locust Hill Farm.

Full-siblings by Two Punch, Brig and Kebo Valley made an odd couple, a perfect pair and a shining example of Williams' sporting approach. Brig ripped a mile on the flat. Kebo Valley logged 3 miles over timber. Brig won races with Mid-Atlantic stalwart Rick Wilson. Kebo Valley won races with Williams' daughter Sheila Fisher. Both were panned from the long, deep well of Janney gold.

"She loved Brig. She loved Kebo. She loved Stormy. She loved Free Runner. She loved All Together. She loved Batchwood . . ." Sheila Fisher said. "They were all her favorites. She loved feeding them. Talking to them. She enjoyed all of them. She loved all of them."

And how couldn't she?

Williams grew up as the oldest child of Stuart and Barbara Janney Jr. on a big farm in the country. The horse bug struck early.

"Hunting and riding and racing. There wasn't much else to do," Williams said in an interview for *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* in 2020. "That's what we did. There was always a foxhunter around and it seemed like all of them ran in the Hunt Cup at one time or another."

A different era, no doubt.

Stuart Janney Jr. won the Maryland Hunt Cup aboard Winton for the first time in 1942. His oldest daughter was 5. World War II forced the cancellation of the Hunt Cup from 1943-45. A captain in the Marines Corps, Janney went to the Pacific while the Maryland Hunt Cup winner went to the paddock.

Sheila Williams recalled the horse and the history for a story about Winton.

"My mother hunted him during the war, which was quite a feat," Williams said. "He was pretty strong, my mother rode side saddle, I don't think she was out there leading the field, I don't know how long she stayed out, but she did keep him going during the war."

The war changed everything.

"They handled it so well, he wrote to us a lot. It was quite something what they all did. It was such a change. I

think the war years were rather good for us, you learned that life wasn't always exactly what you had in mind," Williams said. "We didn't go to town to school, we went over to Frank Bonsal's grandmother's, she had five of us in kindergarten and then I had a year of homeschooling and I started school in second grade. We just didn't have things, we grew chickens, grew vegetables. It wasn't a glamorous life, but it was good. It was healthy. It was healthy."

Winton came back and won the Hunt Cup in 1946 and 1947.

A tomboy at heart, Williams grew up playing tennis, golfing, shooting and riding.

That love never waned, she foxhunted with Green Spring Valley Hounds and Hunt Club into the early 2000s.

"She was a beautiful rider," Sheila Fisher said. "She rocked on behind me and sometimes went in front of me if my horse was too green. She enjoyed doing that. She wanted to be a participant."

Williams participated – and competed – in tennis, golf, sailing, hiking, skiing, shooting and anything outdoor. Indoor, she loved her bridge games. Again, competitive. She took on the *New York Times* crossword puzzles with natural determination.

All of those activities took second call behind the horses.

Predeceased by her husband Rufus, Williams is survived by their four children, Barbara Horneffer, Rufus Williams Jr., Sheila Fisher and Richard Williams, six grandchildren and a stable of horses who were all better for her being involved.

/Sean Clancy

— In Memoriam —

Richard J. Meyer

Thoroughbred owner and advocate for Maryland horsemen and backstretch workers Richard J. Meyer died June 20 after a brief illness. He was 81.

Raised in St. Louis, Mo., Meyer played soccer, basketball and football as a student, graduated from St. Louis University in 1963 and moved to Maryland to work for the federal National Security Agency as a mathematician. His technical and management skills led him to the top echelons of the NSA. He accepted a leadership role and received the NSA Exceptional Civilian Service Award. After 30 years of service, he retired from the agency to work for Raytheon, a defense contractor. Five years later, he returned to the NSA before going to work for Federal Data Systems, a position he held until his death.

A fan of Thoroughbred racing, Meyer in 1984 partnered with his first group of associates to purchase three racehorses. He discovered a new passion in researching bloodlines to aid in the purchase of horses at auction. He created a partnership called M. O. M. Stables, with Josephine Owens and then Timothy Keefe as his trainers.

“Richard was not only a friend I trained for, but a business partner,” Keefe said. “We owned horses together for many years, and he was a wonderful friend and a father figure. As far as the racing business, he let me know I could do what I needed to do. It was always about being in the best interest of the horse, be it racing them or deciding when to retire a horse.

“He loved pedigrees and nicks. We would go to sales and he would let me select horses but would always want me to look for a certain pedigree. He was also a breeder but on a small scale; we had two 3-year-olds that we bred (in partnership) and a couple of other horses. He enjoyed it.”

Meyer was a member of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association Board of Directors and served as president before Keefe was elected in 2014. Meyer was a force in establishing the MTHA Backstretch Pension Plan, which contributes \$1 million a year to support those who work with horses on a daily basis, and facilitated on-site health fairs for the backstretch community. Meyer also served as President of the Maryland Horsemen’s Assistance Foundation, which provides financial assistance to those in need.

Meyer is survived by his wife of 60 years, Mary Meyer, son Douglas Meyer, daughter Karen Schemmel, son-in-law Michael Schemmel, sister Rosemary Sampson and three grandchildren.

Calvin L. Smith

Assistant broodmare manager at Pennsylvania’s Runnymede Farm, and previously an employee in the broodmare division at Derry Meeting Farm, Calvin L. Smith died in June after battling cancer. The Cochranville, Pa. resident was 60.

Smith worked at Derry Meeting for 35 years and when that farm – birthplace of leading sires Danzig and Storm Cat, millionaire Yankee Affair, Irish champion Mrs. Penny and other stars – closed he moved to nearby Runnymede. A new Thoroughbred farm owned by Greg and Caroline Bentley, Runnymede built a broodmare band from scratch and turned to Smith for expertise. He spent more than six years there and in 2021 received a Thoroughbred Industry Employee Award for dedication to breeding.

“You’ve got Jordan in Chicago, Madonna in music and Calvin in the broodmare industry in this part of the world,” Runnymede’s Joe Cassidy said of Smith in a TIEA video in 2021. “He

loves his mares, and he’s committed to anything that he puts his mind to.”

Smith is survived by his wife Denise Groff Smith, daughters Megan Hanna and Ashley Ladley, four grandchildren, sisters Brenda Melrath, Doris McMillan and Tammy Helm.

Marshall Dowell

Thoroughbred owner Marshall Dowell, perhaps best known as the owner of 2005 Preakness Stakes-G1 runner-up Scrappy T, died in April. He was 77. Dowell grew up near Richmond in Lakeside, Va., served in the U.S. Army special forces during the Vietnam War and returned to start a successful auto dealership business.

On the racetrack, Scrappy T earned \$645,919 topped by a win in the 2005 Withers Stakes-G3 plus placings in that Preakness (where he bumped eventual winner Afleet Alex coming off the final turn), Indiana Derby-G2, Discovery-G3 and Wood Memorial-G1. Another Dowell runner, Mint Slewlep, won five races including the 2008 Da Hoss Stakes at Colonial Downs and earned \$174,556.

Gordie Keys

Gordon Chandler “Gordie,” a farmer, cattleman and Thoroughbred owner, died at his home Beaver Dam Farm in Middleburg, Va. July 8. He was 89.

Keys was born in Laytonsville, Md. and graduated Sherwood High School in 1951 before serving in the U.S. Army and later attending the University of Maryland where he earned a degree in agriculture. While at Maryland, he met Janice Oxley of Baltimore. They married in 1959 and made their home in Olney, Md. where they raised four children, Chandler, Chrissy, Susan and Anne.

Keys and his stepfather Robert Chichester farmed their ancestral home Oatland, until 1969 when

Robert passed away. Keys took over management, raised crops, sod, hay, hogs, registered Angus cattle and Thoroughbreds. Gordie and Janice later divorced, and he relocated to Middleburg with his cows and horses. He married Mary Kay "Robin" Garwood Sterling in 1998.

They operated Beaver Dam Farm for 25 years. He was recognized regionally and nationally for contributions to the Angus industry and was known as one of the best cattlemen in the area. He also was a familiar face on the Maryland and Virginia steeplechase circuit. The lifelong foxhunter rode with the Redland Hunt, was a founding member of the Goshen Hunt, hunted in Ireland and later rode with the Piedmont Hunt.

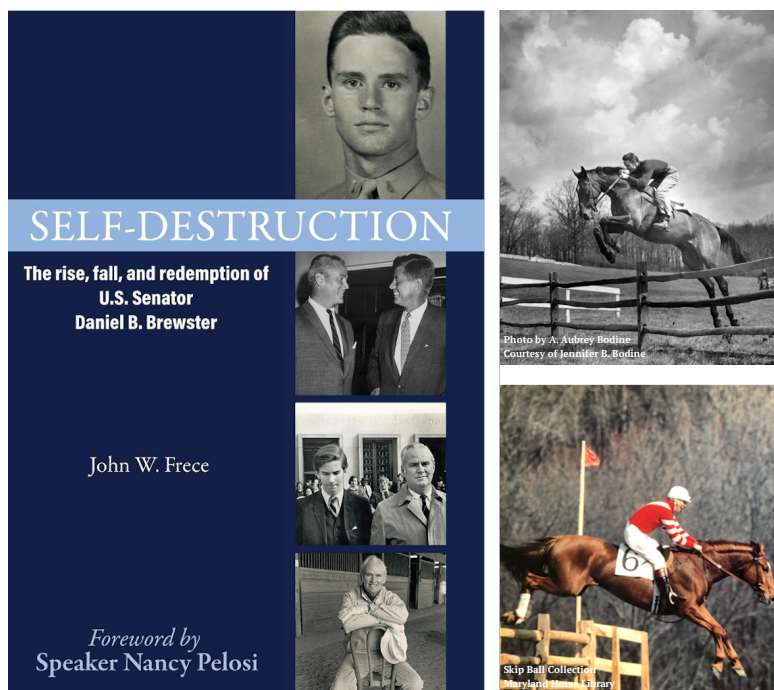
Keys bred and owned many successful racehorses over the years, including I'm a Hokie, Tom Hagen and stakes winner Grateful Bred, a homebred who won the 2021 Maryland Million Turf Sprint and had earned \$332,645 through mid-August.

Keys was a founding member of the Olney Civic Association, chairman of the Agricultural Committee for Montgomery County, a founding member of the Agricultural Farm Park, a member of the Montgomery Farmers Club for 50 years, and a board member of the Maryland Beef Producers Association.

Gordie and Robin established the Keys Scholarship Fund at the American Angus Association, providing educational financial assistance annually to aspiring students from Virginia and Maryland.

Keys is survived by his wife, Robin, his children, G. Chandler Keys III, Mary Christopher "Chrissy" Heard, Susan Romans, Anne Biebel, and stepson David Michael Sterling. He is also survived by his former spouse, Janice Keys, eight grandchildren, two nephews and two nieces.

WAR HERO HORSEMAN U.S. SENATOR



Danny Brewster had it all, and it nearly killed him. *What happened?*

"If this country is to continue to progress, then we need men like Dan Brewster in the U.S. Senate."

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For more information, visit SenatorDanielBrewster.com





JOB OPPORTUNITY: Director of Development & Programming

The Maryland Horse Foundation is seeking a dynamic director of development and programming to fulfill a variety of duties on a full-time basis at the Reisterstown, Maryland office in Baltimore County. Duties will be focused on fundraising for the Maryland Horse Foundation, and programming for the Maryland Horse Library & Education Center.

Maryland Horse Foundation

The Maryland Horse Foundation (MHF) was chartered in 1988 by the Maryland Horse Breeders Association to serve various educational and charitable needs of the Maryland Horse industry. The Maryland Horse Foundation (MHF) is a 501c3 organization that supports public outreach and educational programs, and oversees the maintenance of MarylandHorse.com in addition to maintaining a social media presence. Additionally, the MHF is responsible for the operation of the Maryland Horse Library & Education Center and, one of the anchor sites of the Maryland Horse Park System. We are proud to work directly with several industry partners in our endeavors to promote the Maryland Horse industry.

Maryland Horse Library & Education Center

The Maryland Horse Library & Education Center (MHLEC) functions as an informational resource and meeting/educational space for the equine and agricultural communities, the media, the general public, in addition to community, business and governmental organizations.

Maryland Horse Breeders Association

As a service organization, the MHBA provides industry information, educational opportunities, and legislative representation to its nearly five hundred breeder-owner members, which include Thoroughbred breeders, owners of racehorses, steeplechase and hunt enthusiasts, and others with horse involvement. The MHBA publishes the monthly The Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred magazine, provides a Weekly digital bulletin and manages many websites and social media accounts. The MHBA and the MHF share many of the same goals so the MHBA staff and the MHF will work closely together.

Job Description for MHF Director of Development & Programming

Work in conjunction with the Executive Director and Board of Trustees to develop and execute both long- and short-term plans for the advancement of the MHF. Raise funds, manage donors, develop, and execute programs.

Duties

- Oversee all board and committee activities including meeting packets, minutes, etc.
- Develop and coordinate new and recurring educational programs at MHLEC
- Coordinate schedule of available meeting space in MHLEC
- Fundraising to support new and recurring programs
- Record donations and maintain a donor information database

- Research and pursue grant opportunities
- Manage and grow long-term giving strategies and donors
- Execute short term and long-term plans with the executive director and Board of Trustees

Qualifications & Benefits

An appropriate candidate will meet or exceed the following qualifications:

- Experience in nonprofit management, donor development, and fundraising required
- Strong leadership skills and a demonstrated history of taking initiative required
- Excellent written and oral communications skills required
- Excellent interpersonal skills required
- Bachelor's degree with an emphasis in business management or a relevant field preferred
- Knowledge of and enthusiasm for the horse industry
- Must be proficient with Microsoft and Google platforms

The selected candidate will enjoy the following benefits:

- Salary commensurate with experience
- Health and dental plan
- Paid vacation, paid sick leave, paid holidays, flextime
- Retirement plan

Send resume, cover letter and questions to cricket@marylandthoroughbred.com

Maryland Horse®

September 2023

Official publication of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association; Vol. 88, No. 8



MARYLAND HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION INC.

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Dark Hollow's Day

*Allard chooses Haydens' Honor A. P. colt
as champion at 89th annual yearling show*

By Cindy Deubler



The third Yearling Show Grand Champion to represent David and JoAnn Hayden's Dark Hollow Farm breeding program is from the first crop of Grade 1 winner Honor A. P., shown by Jenna Isennock.

History is not lost on those who participate in the Maryland Horse Breeders Association's annual yearling show. Trainer Ned Allard, the judge for this year's 89th show, admitted to knowing – some better than others – all 75 previous show judges, 27 of them Hall of Famers, going back to Preston M. Burch, who kicked off the tradition as co-

judge in 1932, and Sunny Jim Fitzsimmons, the judge for the next 10 years.

And this year's grand champion and reserve champion brought their own long lines of history.

David and JoAnn Hayden regularly show yearlings born and raised at their Dark Hollow Farm in Upperco, and for the third time a Hayden

homebred was named champion.

Allard selected as his top pick the couple's Class II colt, from the first crop of Honor A. P. and bearing a strong likeness to his Grade 1-winning sire.

"Honor A. P. gets gorgeous foals," said David Hayden, whose other Honor A. P. entrant, a filly out of Madison



Paget Bennett (right) presents the Fasig-Tipton sponsored trophy to owner/breeder Ann Jackson (center) for her Class I winner, a son of Holy Boss. Jackson's daughter Win Lewis is at the colt's head.



Presenting the awards for the Class II-winning colt are (from left) Paget Bennett and Shamrock Farm's Christie Steele to owners JoAnn and David Hayden. Jenna Isenock took the groom's award.



JoAnn and David Hayden's Golden Lad filly, the winner of Class III, is awarded the top prizes from MHBA president Kent Murray.



MHBA President Kent Murray presented the Class IV the trophy to Alison P. Delgado for her winning Exaggerator filly, handled by Weezy Labarre.

2

Avenue, placed second in Class IV. "We also have weanlings on our farm by him. They're knockouts."

Allard, a New Jersey native, New England stalwart and trainer of Hall of Famer Mom's Command, explained his picks for champion and reserve champion (Ann Jackson's chestnut colt by Holy Boss), "When you ask a trainer to look at horses, he's looking for a good racehorse. They have to be good movers and have a good walk. You can accept some flaws but these two seemed to be pretty clean with good walks. They stood out."

The champion was well composed in the ring. "He's a cool dude," said Hayden. The fourth-generation homebred goes back to the Haydens' foundation mare Safely Home, the dam of Hall of Famer and Eclipse Award winner Safely Kept (a show participant who didn't get a ribbon in her class of 60 in 1987).

The colt's dam Flit (by Not For Love) showed in 2012. Out of Safe Journey (by Flatter, and second in her class in 2006), Flit didn't get a ribbon, but her half-brother Lapinski Union (by Union Rags) won his class in 2021. This year,

Flit's half-sister by Twirling Candy was fourth in Class IV.

The Haydens have shown all five of Flit's foals, starting with her first in 2018, and three earned ribbons.

Flit's half-sister, stakes winner Joy (by Pure Prize), has contributed to the collection. Shown in 2011, she was second in her class, and produced last year's Class II winner (by City of Light).

"It's been a great ride for a mare [Safely Home] we claimed for \$11,500," said Hayden.

Dark Hollow also bred the 2009 champion, a Malibu Moon colt out of Kinlin. Their Malibu Moon filly that year was reserve champion, only the second time that the exhibitor took both awards the same year (the other was Fendall Clagett in 1972). Dark Hollow's Pure Prize—He Loves Me filly was the champion in 2014.

This year was the second in a row that the champion was prepared by Dark Hollow Farm's crew. Ellen Charles' Hillwood Stable mares reside at the farm, their offspring are born and raised there and, as yearlings, are prepped for the show. Charles' Bandbox colt took top honors in 2022.

"Everyone at the farm really works their butts off," said Hayden. "They get all the credit. They do everything that needs to be done to get them there in good order."

The reserve champion's history runs nearly as deep. Jackson's Holy Boss colt, winner of Class I, is out of the Not For Love mare Barouchka, a half-sister to Ann and her late husband Cary's show champion Furman Bisher (in 2010).

"We always hope we have someone we can bring to the show," said Ann Jackson. "Our farm manager, Jeff Canoles, loves the yearling show. He won't show them [in the ring], but he prepares them. He gets a big kick out of it. I really have to hand it to him—he does all the hard work. He keeps an eye on them, on their diet, exercises them, grooms them. They become his project. It's something he loves. But he won't take them in the ring—my daughter [Win Lewis] takes them in the ring."

The colt described as energetic by Jackson—"He never stood still. He wasn't bad, he just didn't want to stop walking,"—was Jackson's only entrant. "We're a very small operation here—we have two



MHBA President Kent Murray and his mother Audrey Murray (Murmur Farm), present the grand championship prizes to JoAnn and David Hayden for their Honor A. P.—Flit, by Not For Love colt.



Kent Murray and Audrey Murray flank breeder/owner Ann Jackson while presenting reserve championship honors, as Jackson's daughter Win Lewis shows their Holy Boss colt out of Barouchka.



Frank Vespe of The Racing Biz presents the top Maryland Sire of the Show Award for Holy Boss to Anchor and Hope Farm's Louis, Grace and Max Merryman.



Judge Ned Allard, with assistant Sara Jackson, receives a token of appreciation from show announcer Frank Vespe, MHBA president Kent Murray and ring master Brian Magness.

broodmares right now," she noted. "It's nice to have the success with the company that we're in. There were barns that have lots and lots of horses. We're such a small operation, it's nice to be competitive in that crowd."

Jackson has sent a number of Barouchka's offspring to the show, including stakes winner Taco Supreme, and stakes-placed Renaissance Rosie, the latter second in her class in 2013. "We've had this family and they're big solid horses with a lot of bone and have been successful at the racetrack," added Jackson. "We really just like this family and try to breed to horses here in Maryland for the Maryland market."

Holy Boss stands at Anchor and Hope Farm in Port Deposit. He had eight offspring shown, three picking up ribbons, and was the recipient of the Northview Get-of-Sire trophy as the top Maryland sire of the show.

The champion and reserve champion head to the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale in October.

The filly class winners were, in Allard's mind, very close. "If I had to pick third and fourth [overall] I wouldn't have

been able to do it," he admitted. "But I didn't have to."

The Haydens won Class III (Maryland-sired fillies) with a daughter of Golden Lad out of Bread and Butter (by Pure Prize), a class winner in 2012. With the first-place showing, it pushed the total classes won in the name of Dark Hollow Farm (solely or in partnership) since 1989 to 18.

An Exaggerator filly owned by Alison Delgado and co-bred by Delgado with Sabrina Moore won Class IV. The filly is the second foal out of a winning Louis Quatorze mare Delgado co-owned and trained.

Sixty yearlings were judged and are eligible for the \$40,000 premium award split annually, with \$20,000 to the exhibitors of the four show contestants who earn the most money as 2-year-olds during 2024, and another \$20,000 divided among the exhibitors of the four highest-earning 3-year-old runners in 2025.

Special Thanks

The MHBA extends special thanks to show sponsors: Fasig-Tipton Midlantic

Inc., Gegorek & Company PA, Horizon Farm Credit, James B. Steele Jr., Komlo & Associates, Inc., Larking Hill Training Center, Maryland Horse Industry Board, Maryland Jockey Club, Maryland Million, Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Murmur Farm, Northview Stallion Station, The Mill, The Racing Biz, This Is Horse Racing, To Win Again Farm & V.I.P. Ticket Rehab Center and Wasabi Ventures Stables. Added appreciation goes to the Maryland State Fair (provider of the facility), Country Life Farm (straw) and Maryland Equine Center (on call throughout the day).

Results

Class I. For colts and geldings foaled in Maryland, the produce of mares covered in Maryland (12 exhibited)

1. ch.c., Holy Boss—Barouchka, by Not For Love. Owned and bred by Ann B. Jackson, White Hall, Md. 2. Bishop, dk.b./br.c., Mosler—Belle Vlada (Ire), by Kheleyf. Owned and bred by Robert Atkinson and Mary Atkinson, Bel Air, Md. 3. ch.c., Golden Lad—Corinnaise, by Corinthian. Owned and bred by BTR



Class I Groom's Award winner Matthew Cunningham.



Class III Groom's Award winner Katie Brown.



Amateur judging winners Dave Hudson and Debbie Dahr.



Class IV Groom's Award winner Cheyenne Piccolo.

Racing Inc., Clarksville, Md. 4. Johnjack-jimjaye, ch.g., Divining Rod—Parade of Colors, by Leading the Parade. Owned and bred by John E. Williamson III, Reisterstown, Md. 5. b.c., Great Notion—Last Love, by Not For Love. Owned and bred by Wendy Komlo and Drew Komlo, Derwood, Md.

Class II. For colts and geldings foaled in Maryland, the produce of mares covered in states other than Maryland (12 exhibited)

1. dk.b./br.c., Honor A. P.—Flit, by Not For Love. Owned and bred by Dark Hollow Farm, Upperco, Md. 2. b.c., Bolt d'Oro—Lunar Rille, by English Channel. Owned and bred by Country Life Farm and Lunar Rille LLC, Bel Air, Md. 3. Farroq, ch.c., Maclean's Music—Congaree Princess, by Congaree. Owned and bred by Daniel E. Marconi, Mount Airy, Md. 4. b.c., Catalina Cruiser—Cat Charmer, by Storm Cat. Owned and bred by Dark

Hollow Farm, Upperco, Md. 5. dk.b./br.c., Practical Joke—Fancy Love, by Not For Love. Owned and bred by John C. Davison, Baltimore, Md.

Class III. For fillies foaled in Maryland, the produce of mares covered in Maryland (20 exhibited)

1. b.f., Golden Lad—Bread and Butter, by Pure Prize. Owned and bred by Dark Hollow Farm, Upperco, Md. 2. Gogo Boots, b.f., Eclipticalspraline—Another Cougar, by With Distinction. Owned by Mellissa Perrin Keithly, Buxton, Maine. Bred by Maria M. Haire. 3. Twos the Boss, ch.f., Holy Boss—Fingerpaint, by Union Rags. Owned and bred by Designated Hitters Racing, Ellicott City, Md. 4. Raven Dance, ch.f., Holy Boss—Bekki's Dance, by Dance With Ravens. Owned and bred by Dr. Ronald Harris Parker, Long Beach, Calif. 5. dk.b./br.f., Mosler—Rotate, by Orb. Owned and bred by Adele B. Dilschneider, St. Louis, Mo.

Class IV. For fillies foaled in Maryland, the produce of mares covered in states other than Maryland (16 exhibited)

1. dk.b./br.f., Exaggerator—High Tolerance, by Louis Quatorze. Owned by Alison P. Delgado, Upperco, Md. Bred by Alison P. Delgado and Sabrina L. Moore. 2. dk.b./br.f., Honor A. P.—Madison Avenue, by Quality Road. Owned and bred by Dark Hollow Farm, Upperco, Md. 3. gr./ro.f., Liam's Map—Missy Rules, by Peace Rules. Owned and bred by Country Life Farm and Missy Rules LLC, Bel Air, Md. 4. b.f., Twirling Candy—Safe Journey, by Flatter. Owned and bred by Dark Hollow Farm, Upperco, Md. 5. dk.b./br.f., Maclean's Music—Bridled Assurance, by Unbridled's Song. Owned and bred by Hillwood Stable LLC, Washington, D.C.

Champion—dk.b./br.c., Honor A. P.—Flit, by Not For Love. Owned and bred by Dark Hollow Farm, Upperco, Md.

Reserve Champion—
ch.c., Holy Boss—Barouchka, by Not
For Love. Owned and bred by Ann B.
Jackson, White Hall, Md.

Northview Stallion Station

Get-of-Sire trophy—

HOLY BOSS. Presented to the Maryland
stallion whose offspring earn the most
points based on the following: five for

first, three (second), two (third), one
(fourth) and a half (fifth). The champion
earns two and the reserve one.

The following stallions earned points
at this year's show: Holy Boss,
9 points (eight shown); Golden Lad, 7
points (three shown); Mosler,
3.5 points (four shown);
Eclipticalspraline, 3 points (one shown);

Divining Rod, 1 point (two shown) and
Great Notion, 0.5 point (one shown).

Groom's Awards: Class I, #62, Matthew
Cunningham; Class II, #20, Jenna
Isenock; Class III, #38, Katie Brown;
Class IV, #48, Cheyenne Piccolo;
Championship class, #20, Jenna Isenock
(champion); #68, Win Lewis (reserve).

Premium award winners from 2020 and 2021 MHBA Yearling shows

The \$40,000 MHBA Yearling Show premium is split and distributed twice among the four show contestants who earn the most money as 2- and 3-year-olds. The highest earners of 2022 received \$13,000 for first; \$4,000, second; \$2,000, third; and \$1,000, fourth.

Shown in 2020—3-year-olds in 2022

Judge: Michael Matz

Uncle Irish—\$181,937

ch.c., Uncle Lino—Go Get'm Irish, by Kitalpha; shown in
Class II by Charles Blanford.

Crabs N Beer—\$154,359

gr./ro.c., Blofeld—Get'm Up Pronto, by Kitalpha; shown
in Class I by Charles Blanford.

In 2022: 3rd James W. Murphy S, Maryland Million Turf S

Fuhgeddaboudit—\$112,323

dk.b./br.f., Great Notion—Outwithbigdaddy,
by Outflanker; shown in Class III by No Guts No Glory
Farm.

One Silk Stocking—\$110,200

ch.f., Lord Nelson—Keep Right, by Street Cry (Ire);
5th in Class IV, shown by Country Life Farm and Keep
Right LLC.

Shown in 2021—2-year-olds in 2022

Judge: Gary Contessa

Malibu Moonshine—\$155,880

ch.f., Bourbon Courage—Sunday in Malibu, by Malibu
Moon; shown in Class III by Dr. Ronald Harris Parker.
In 2022: Won Maryland Juvenile Filly Championship S,
Gin Talking S

Landon Jack—\$76,380

b.g., Friesan Fire—Katie's Caddie, by Lion Hearted;
shown in Class I by Fred T. Lewis DVM.

Blind Spot—\$72,720

gr./ro.f., Cross Traffic—Your Flame in Me, by Boundary;
4th in Class IV, shown by Country Life Farm and Your
Flame in Me LLC.

In 2022: Won Our Dear Peggy S

Mysisternancy—\$71,845

b.f., Mosler—Parade of Colors, by Leading the Parade;
shown in Class III by John E. Williamson III.

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On the calendar at the Maryland
Horse Library and Education Center in
Reisterstown this fall:

**Monday, Sept. 25, 4 p.m.—What is the
Maryland Horse Park System?**

Ross Peddicord, executive director of
the Maryland Horse Industry Board, was
instrumental in the Maryland Horse In-
dustry Board's creation of the Maryland
Horse Park System, an alliance of three
cornerstone equestrian destinations –

What's happening at the library

Prince George's Equestrian Center, Fair
Hill Special Events Zone, and the Mary-
land Horse Library and Education Center.
He will discuss how the Maryland Horse
Park System came to be and look at the
upcoming world-class events in October:
the Maryland 5-Star at Fair Hill Oct. 19-22
and the Washington International Horse
Show (a designated FEI five-star event)
Oct. 23-29 at The Show Place Arena at the
Prince George's Equestrian Center.

**Monday, Oct. 23, 4 p.m.—Before the
Breeders' Cup, the Washington, D.C.,
International**

International racing at its best didn't
begin with the Breeders' Cup. The first
major event in the U.S. was the brainchild
of Marylander John D. Schapiro, who
took over the reins as Laurel's president
in 1950 and created a race designed to

bring together the world's best horses at
1½ miles on the grass. He named it the
Washington, D.C., International. Learn
more about the history of the racing vi-
sionary when his step-son, Joseph Da-
vies, comes to the library for a talk.

**Monday, Nov. 6, 4 p.m.—Author Talk
with Patrick Smithwick.**

Marylander Patrick Smithwick has
been working with horses all of his life,
getting life lessons at a young age from
his father, legendary steeplechase jockey
turned-trainer A.P. Smithwick. He has
since developed another passion, writing,
and pens what he knows, growing up
with a racing legend in *Racing My Father*
to a memoir about a year with his family
in *Flying Change*, his first two published
works. His most recent book, *War's Over,
Come Home* is another chapter in the life of
his family.

— IN MEMORIAM —
Rosalee Davison



Davison, a designer and philanthropist, earned an art history degree from Syracuse University, where she met her husband, and later earned a design degree at Maryland Institute College of Art and a master's degree from the Johns Hopkins University. She was a founding member of the Walters Art Museum's Women's Committee, later its vice-chair, and served on the board of trustees for 19 years. Her family has been a major supporter of the Maryland Horse Library and Education Center.

Davison passed away June 30 at 92. She is survived by her husband and children Mark (Sarah) Davison, Joanna Davison Golden, and John Davison, sister Charlotte C. Weinberg and many grandchildren.

Her son John was the MHBA's secretary/treasurer in the mid-2010s.



Rosalee Davison appeared on the November 1981 cover of *Maryland Horse* with husband Richard and son John during Guilty Conscience's Eclipse Award season.

Skip Ball Collection / Maryland Horse Library

Rosalee Davison had an early indoctrination to racing—her father Ben Cohen had purchased Pimlico Race Course with her uncle Herman Cohen when she was in her 20s. Four years after her parents won the Belmont Stakes in 1965 with homebred Hail to All (who raced in her mother Zelda's name), Rosalee and her husband Richard Davison took the leap into the horse business.

The Davisons lost money with their horses for the first 10 years, then struck paydirt with homebred Guilty Conscience, the Eclipse Award-winning sprinter of 1981. Trained by Hubert "Sonny" Hine, the Maryland-bred won or placed in 13 of 15 starts his championship season, 10 in stakes, topped by the Grade 1 Vosburgh which sealed the title.

Interestingly, Rosalee's mother bred the dam of the 1979 Eclipse Award sprint champion Star de Naskra before selling her to Carlyle J. "Jiggs" Lancaster.

The Davisons lived in Pikesville, and kept their broodmares at J. Fred Colwill's Halcyon Farm in Lutherville, which was where the *Gallant Man mare Gracefully foaled Guilty Conscience. Gracefully had been their first purchase as a young broodmare (along with a weanling colt) at the 1969 Keeneland Fall Sale.

The Davisons also campaigned homebred Hear Us Roar, a great-granddaughter of Gracefully. By Lion Hearted, she was the Maryland-bred champion 2-year-old filly of 2004 after winning all three starts, including the Selima and Maryland Million Lassie.

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Super Accelerate



Star de Naskra Stakes

\$75,000-guaranteed, 7 fur., registered Maryland-bred or sired 3-year-olds. Laurel Park, July 29.

B.c., 2020, Accelerate—Bawlmer Hon, by Silver Train. Bred by Bowman & Higgins Stable; owned by Steven L. Walfish; trained by Robin L. Graham. Foaled at Dance Forth at Roland, Warwick, Md.

	Lifetime				
starts	1st	2nd	3rd	earnings	
8	3 (1)	2	0	\$132,860	
				(through July 29)	

2023: 1st \$75,000 Star de Naskra S, 7 fur., registered Md.-bred or sired 3-year-olds, Laurel, July 29.

Talk to the Judge



Miss Disco Stakes

\$75,000-guaranteed, 7 fur., registered Maryland-bred or sired 3-year-old fillies. Laurel Park, July 29.

Dk.b./br.f., 2020, Golden Lad—Talkin Smack, by Not For Love. Bred by Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman; owned by Waldorf Racing Stables LLC; trained by Marya K. Montoya. Foaled at Dance Forth at Roland, Warwick, Md.

	Lifetime				
starts	1st	2nd	3rd	earnings	
7	3 (1)	0	2	\$116,432	
				(through July 29)	

2023: 1st \$75,000 Miss Disco S, 7 fur., registered Md.-bred or sired 3-year-old fillies, Laurel, July 29.

Longtime leading Maryland breeders Tom and Chris

Bowman had quite the day July 29. They bred the winners of back-to-back stakes in consecutive races at Laurel. Tom Bowman doesn't recall ever having done that before, except possibly on a Maryland Million Day. This year's accomplishment by Super Accelerate in the Star de Naskra and Talk to the Judge in the Miss Disco was, well, magical.

"It was really a special day. The kind that I wish people could experience more often," said Bowman, who rarely goes to the races, but was in attendance. "As old as I am I was like a kid that day."

Both stakes winners were produced from families the renowned equine veterinarian has been involved with for generations.

Super Accelerate (by Accelerate), bred in partnership with the late Milton Higgins, is the second foal, and first winner, for Bawlmer Hon, a stakes-winning daughter of Silver Train bred by the Bowmans and late trainer Dickie Small who earned \$229,832 in her 20-race career. His third dam, Proud Owner, was also



Jim McCue (2)

bred by the Bowmans and Small (by Proud Truth out of stakes winner Owned by All), and won six stakes in her career to earn \$568,982.

Super Accelerate's second dam, Manhattan Madam (by Not For Love), didn't have much race record, but a big reputation. "Dickie and I owned her together until he died [in 2014]," said Bowman. "She doesn't have any race record to speak of at all."

But Small told Bowman that Manhattan Madam was the second-fastest filly he'd ever trained—the only one faster was Caesar's Wish. "He made that claim and I was pleasantly surprised. That said something," said Bowman. "It was not like him to say that. He just said it matter of factly."

"He told me that he thought he could do OK with her [at the track]. But she had a little bit of an injury and he didn't want to do anything to harm her future as a broodmare. He said she had too much future so let's just try breeding her."

Manhattan Madam has 10 named foals, all have started and seven are winners. "This family of horses are 'picture-book'," said Bowman. "They've got Not For Love's body type, big eyes, extremely nice-looking."

Bawlmer Hon's 2-year-old, the Nyquist colt Quistmer, sold for \$150,000 as a yearling at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Fall sale before being hammered down for \$92,000 at this year's May sale. She pro-

duced a colt by West Coast in January and is back in foal to Great Notion.

The story of Talk to the Judge's dam, Talkin Smack, required Bowman's vast veterinary experience. Bred by Willie White's Skeedattle Associates, the Not For Love mare had a tough go as a foal.

"Willie raced Smooth Talking, who seemingly had a bright future. She's from a family full of horses Skeedattle Associates raced," recalled Bowman of the stakes-placed mare out of Gin Talking, the 2000 Maryland-bred Horse of the Year. "She raced well enough but got a chip in her ankle, had surgery and got MRSA. They spent a tremendous amount of money just saving her and getting her pasture sound." The mare eventually produced seven foals, including stakes winners Cynergy's Star and Look Who's Talking.

Smooth Talking went to the Bowmans' farm when she was bred for the first time. "The foal was born with several real problems which I think were the result of a systemic infection in the mare."

Talkin Smack came into the world with an enlarged ankle which Bowman notes has never been normal, and was very small. "We had a young lady working here at the time who just babysat her for about six weeks," he said. "Just out on the lawn all the time bottle feeding and fluids. It took somebody with an extraordinary amount of dedication to keep her going."

Talkin Smack turned out to be an "OK sized mare," said Bowman, but never raced.

She's produced six foals of racing age, five starters, four winners, including Always Talking (by Despite the Odds), a 15-time winner with career earnings of \$317,831. Talkin Smack's most recent foal is a yearling filly by Great Notion and she's back in foal to Great Notion.

In winning her first stakes, Talk to the Judge boosted her career total to \$116,432, with three wins from seven starts, for owner Waldorf Racing Stables and Parx Racing-based trainer Marya Montoya.

Super Accelerate improved to 3-2-0 from eight starts and has earned \$132,860. He's

owned by Steven L. Walfish and trained by Robin Graham.

It's been 50 years since Bowman bred his first horse. "How fortunate I've been to have friends, legitimate friends. Dickie Small for all those years, Milton Higgins for all those years. Willie White. I've guess I've been fortunate to be in the right place at the right time."

Coconut Cake



Jameela Stakes

\$75,000-guaranteed, 6 fur., turf, registered Maryland-bred or sired fillies and mares, 3 & up. Laurel Park, July 1.

Gr./ro.m., 2017, Bandbox—English Muffin, by English Channel. Bred by Mr. and Mrs. Charles McGinness; owned by N R S Stable, James Chambers and Timothy L. Keefe; trained by

Timothy L. Keefe.. Foaled at Thornmar Farm, Chestertown, Md.

	Lifetime				
starts	1st	2nd	3rd	earnings	
24	6 (2)	2 (1)	7 (5)	\$342,723	(through July 30)

2021: 2nd Weather Vane S; 3rd Geisha S. 2022: 1st \$125,000 Maryland Million Ladies S, 1½ mi., turf, fillies and

mares, 3 & up, sired by eligible Md. stallions, Laurel, Oct. 22; 3rd Forever Together S, Dahlia S, Geisha S, All Brandy S. 2023: 1st \$75,000 Jameela S, 6 fur., turf, registered Md.-bred or sired fillies and mares, 3 & up, Laurel, July 1.

Maryland-bred top earners in 2023

(through July 31)

1. Award Wanted	\$202,500	11. Bosserati	\$125,900
2. Liquidator	201,270	12. Super Accelerate	121,120
3. Eastern Bay	167,540	13. Mit Mazel	120,620
4. Response Time	144,940	14. Fuhgeddaboutit	119,120
5. Holy Synchronicity	144,860	15. Dancing Sophia	115,150
6. Princess Kokachin	144,660	16. Ournationonparade	111,900
7. Berks	142,420	17. My Flicker	111,863
8. I'm Gittin There	135,170	18. Brzina	111,510
9. Coffeewithchris	131,250	19. Clubman	110,650
10. It's Viper	125,930	20. All Threes	110,050



MARYLAND FUND REPORT

Bonuses paid for races run in April and May 2023 at Maryland tracks

Breeder bonuses

Includes the additional 10 percent Maryland-sired bonus for winners of maiden races, initiated Jan. 1 during the 2022 Laurel winter meet. That bonus is reflected in the second figure earned for the race.

Linda L. Albert—Mit Mazel: April 29, 8th race, \$2,250; May 28, 5th race, \$900. (\$3,150)
Helen C. Alexander—Baton: May 27, 8th race, \$1,080.

Amy H. Daney Bloodstock—Pray for the U S A: May 14, 8th race, \$3,240.

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc.—And Whistle: April 14, 4th race, \$1,215. Boss Man J J: April 20, 8th race, \$1,620. Food Foodie: April 6, 8th race, \$3,915/\$1,305; May 12, 2nd race, \$1,215. I Have Courage: April 2, 1st race, \$562.50; May 7, 1st race, \$3,375/\$1,125; May 29, 1st race, \$607.50. Vance Scholars: April 14, 8th race, \$1,575. Winked: May 14, 7th race, \$1,215. (\$17,730)

Angelinos Racing LLC—Blueberry Indygo: May 13, 5th race, \$787.50.

Barak Farm—Lady Mosler: April 7, 5th race, \$5,940/\$1,980; May 12, 4th race, \$1,575. One Ten: May 6, 10th race, \$1,395. Royal Whisper: April 16, 8th race, \$2,160; May 19, 6th race, \$8,100. She Is Wisky: May 4, 6th race, \$1,080. Water Witch: April 20, 2nd

race, \$1,035; May 13, 2nd race, \$4,725. (\$27,990)

Barak Farm and Dinors Thoroughbreds LLC—Captain Woodrow: May 26, 7th race, \$2,340. Isabella's Glory: April 7, 1st race, \$787.50; May 28, 2nd race, \$1,620. (\$4,747.50)

BB Horses—Ladro Di Fichi: April 7, 1st race, \$1,575; May 13, 2nd race, \$787.50. (\$2,362.50)

John Bashore and Albert Klerlein—Kellan: May 25, 4th race, \$2,340.

William Bayne—Bernie's On Fire: May 6, 4th race, \$810.

Patricia Beck and Richard C. Beck—Daily Planet: May 13, 2nd race, \$1,575.

Bell Gable Stable—Willful Desire: May 29, 1st race, \$3,645.

Best Foot Forward LLC—Gallant Gold: May 29, 7th race, \$900.

Black Fox Farm—Remembering Wilbur: May 13, 4th race, \$2,295.

James A. Blackwell—Golden Angel: April 2, 1st race, \$3,375/\$1,125. (\$4,500)

Richard F. Blue Jr.—Jones Falls: May 25, 8th race, \$517.50. Prince Pere: April 20, 8th race, \$810; May 11, 7th race, \$6,480. The Last Scip: May 26, 2nd race, \$3,105. (\$10,912.50)

Bonita Farm and Partners—Evangeline Allons: May 18, 2nd race, \$4,860.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman—Chelichna: May 6, 1st race, \$1,620. Odinson: May 4, 8th race, \$3,960. Proper Attire: April 2, 7th race, \$2,610. Winds of Fortune: May 13, 6th race, \$562.50. (\$8,752.50)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Adena Springs—Brushing: April 15, 2nd race, \$720.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman—Street Lute: April 29, 9th race, \$2,250. What Does It Take: April 13, 5th race, \$2,160. (\$4,410)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Quin Bowman and Rebecca Davis—Alwaysinahurry: April 15, 8th race, \$13,500; April 29, 10th race, \$4,500. Clubman: April 2, 5th race, \$1,440; April 29, 5th race, \$2,250; May 12, 7th race, \$4,320. (\$26,010)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Rick Buckley—Open the Books: April 13, 1st race, \$1,035.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Rebecca Davis—Double Crown: May 29, 8th race, \$1,395. Nami: April 16, 2nd race, \$810. Tom Terrific: April 15, 1st race, \$810; May 27, 5th race, \$405. (\$3,420)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Rebecca Davis and Dr. Brooke Bowman—Auntie Rona: April 16, 2nd race, \$1,620; May 12, 9th race, \$4,860. Dry Well: May 13, 8th race, \$1,305. (\$7,785)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Estate of Milton P. Higgins III—Carvellian Quest: April 30, 5th race, \$5,940.

Bowman and Higgins Stable—Don't Tell Deren: April 13, 4th race, \$3,510; May 28, 1st race, \$1,170. Master of None: April 30, 7th race, \$1,215. Rustys Gfiveifty: April 1, 5th race, \$1,800. (\$7,695)

Shellaine Brown, Susan Baldrige, Horseshoe Valley and Treasure Stable—Going to the Lead: April 7, 6th race, \$2,610.

Phyllis M. Browne—Flirtatious Lass: May 12, 8th race, \$6,480.

Jerome C. Burdick—Tenax: April 20, 8th race, \$4,860.

William Andrew Campbell—Bad Temper: May 7, 2nd race, \$3,105. Seven On the Rocks: April 29, 3rd race, \$1,305. (\$4,410)

CandyLand Farm—Flaming East: May 13, 4th race, \$382.50.

Wes Carter—Savi Dancer: April 16, 10th race, \$652.50.

Chanceland Farm—Italian War Cry: April 7, 5th race, \$1,980.

Estate of Sherman Chin—Lightning Lad: May 14, 1st race, \$787.50. Saint Eros Girl: April 14, 7th race, \$2,160. (\$2,947.50)

Christine Clagett and Leslie Elizabeth Wilson—My Super Sally: May 11, 6th race, \$495.

Classic Thoroughbred XXV—Moonset: May 27, 3rd race, \$1,305.

Clover Hill Racing LLC—Ladneedsahandler: April 16, 9th race, \$2,160.

Randy L. Cohen and Alyse L. Cohen—Thrust-er: May 4, 2nd race, \$517.50.

Susan S. Cooney—Meliponini Bee: May 12, 4th race, \$787.50.

Cordelia Stables LLC—Imagine Victory: May 18, 2nd race, \$810.

Country Life Farm—Ace Nine Nine: April 14, 1st race, \$1,170.

Country Life Farm and As Long As Ittakes LLC—Jasontakeslong: May 29, 5th race, \$495.

Country Life Farm and Broken Trust Fund LLC—Wicked Prankster: May 6, 9th race, \$1,395.

Country Life Farm and Imagistic Broodmare II LLC—Sweet Talia: April 6, 4th race, \$1,080.

Country Life Farm and Keep Right LLC—Pay Zone: May 25, 6th race, \$1,980.

Country Life Farm and Missy Rules LLC—Liquidator: April 14, 4th race, \$2,430. Wonder Water: May 12, 2nd race, \$3,645. (\$6,075)

Country Life Farm and Moonlit Malibu LLC—Esperannna: April 14, 3rd race, \$1,170; May 26, 4th race, \$2,430. (\$3,600)

Country Life Farm and Rock Sapphire LLC—Sapphire Beauty: May 28, 3rd race, \$517.50.

Country Life Farm and Sister State LLC—Lady Ensign: May 14, 3rd race, \$990.

Country Life Farm and Winding Creek Farm—Luv Ya Bye Bye: May 26, 9th race, \$1,125.

Country Roads Ltd.—My Flicker: May 28, 5th race, \$5,400. Utterly Enchanting: May 11, 6th race, \$2,970. (\$8,370)

CRK Stable LLC—Excellerator: April 20, 7th race, \$1,395.

Crystal Park Stables Inc.—Brilliant Ice: May 25, 2nd race, \$2,430.

D Hatman Thoroughbreds, Jaclyn O'Donnell and Kingdome Bloodstock Inc.—Mungo Magic: April 30, 1st race, \$3,375/\$1,125. (\$4,500)

Dark Hollow Farm—Betcha by Golly: April 6, 7th race, \$1,215; May 19, 6th race, \$1,350. Haleigh B: April 6, 7th race, \$2,430; May 14, 7th race, \$7,290. Hot N Spicy Love: April 29, 6th race, \$3,510. Maryland Moon: May 6, 3rd race, \$1,980. Oxide: April 2, 2nd race, \$2,970. Tempt: May 27, 9th race, \$5,940. (\$26,685)

Dark Hollow Farm, D. Brown, Davidov and Schwaber—Never Coast: May 26, 1st race, \$5,940.

Dark Hollow Farm and Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Davidov—Combat Queen: April 2, 7th race, \$1,305.

John C. Davison—Inside Stunt: May 28, 8th race, \$810.

George L. Doetsch—Goldrush Hottie: May 12, 3rd race, \$2,340.

Elevate Equine LLC, DDRS and Ron Cuneo—Patriotic Party: May 4, 2nd race, \$3,105.

The Etched Racing Partnership—Acadian Girl: April 1, 8th race, \$5,400.

Annette Eubanks—Lookin for Justice: May 27, 1st race, \$540.

Annette Eubanks and Daniel Eubanks—Spunky Irishman: April 30, 1st race, \$562.50.

Finale Farm and Mr. and Mrs. David Moose—Rock the Boat: May 20, 1st race, \$8,100.

Charles A. Frock—Tam Char: April 30, 4th race, \$4,320; May 14, 7th race, \$2,430. (\$6,750)

Robert E. Gamber—Oboy: May 26, 9th race, \$562.50.

Robert J. Gerczak—Antipoison: April 6, 6th race, \$585. Dialing Dixie: May 27, 5th race, \$810. (\$1,395)

Glenangus Farm LLC—Proper Storm: May 26, 6th race, \$1,215.

Grandview Stable Inc. and Dominick J. Juno—Dolice Vita: May 12, 7th race, \$720; May 27, 8th race, \$2,160. (\$2,880)

Richard J. Hackerman—Elfuegosmasbrilante: May 6, 11th race, \$990; May 26, 1st race, \$990. Krone: May 27, 6th race, \$1,980. (\$3,960)

Maria M. Haire—Noah Chance: May 11, 7th race, \$2,160.

Michael J. Harrison DVM—Donna's Courage: April 30, 6th race, \$4,860/\$1,620. (\$6,480)

Nancy B. Heil—Karan's Notion: April 29, 10th race, \$2,250.

Hillwood Stable LLC—Hello Hot Rod: April 15, 8th race, \$4,500.

Holly House Farm—Summer Odds: May 12, 8th race, \$1,080. Surprise Hello: May 19, 14th race, \$1,080. (\$2,160)

Michael and Debbie Horning—Mint Game: May 5, 8th race, \$2,160.

Ann B. Jackson—Brzina: April 16, 8th race, \$6,480; May 6, 8th race, \$900; May 28, 5th race, \$1,800. (\$9,180)

Jagger Inc.—Berks: April 13, 5th race, \$6,480. Bossyness: April 16, 7th race, \$1,552.50; May 5, 4th race, \$1,552.50. Freddyyness: April 2, 3rd race, \$585. Parkerness: April 15, 5th race, \$1,215. Rowsie Express: May 5, 4th race, \$776.25. (\$12,161.25)

R. Larry Johnson—By Its Absence: April 13, 3rd race, \$4,860. Call Me Maestro: May 6, 4th race, \$405; May 13, 4th race, \$765; May 27, 1st race, \$1,080. Clouds of White: May 25, 1st race, \$5,940/\$1,980. Despite Odds: April 13, 2nd race, \$630. Fashionista: April 2, 8th race, \$810; May 25, 1st race, \$990. Great Heavens: May 4, 5th race, \$5,940/\$1,980. Heldish: May 19, 8th race, \$1,350. Jumpingjaggerflash: May 7, 3rd race, \$5,940/\$1,980. Naval Empire: May 4, 6th race, \$2,160. Nineteenamendment: May 25, 1st race, \$1,980. Notimeilkepresent: April 1, 4th race, \$3,375. Sky's Not Falling: May 6, 9th race, \$8,370. Spun Glass: May 19, 9th race, \$2,250. Street Tough: May 26, 7th race, \$7,020/\$2,340. Whenigettheaven: May 11, 7th race, \$1,080. Zip Line to Heaven: May 28, 8th race, \$4,860. (\$68,085)

October is Horse Month in Maryland!

Maryland's horse industry is center stage locally and internationally!



The Capital Challenge Horse Show

Sept 28-Oct 8, 2023 Prince George's Equestrian Center
capitalchallenge.org

Celebration of the Horse

Oct 7, 2023 Tuckahoe Equestrian Center
tuckahoeequestriancenter.com

State/National Jousting Championships

Oct 7 Crownsville ~ Oct. 14, 2023 Knoxville
marylandjousting.com

Jim McKay Maryland Million Day

Oct. 14, 2023 Laurel Park
marylandmillion.com

MARS Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill

Oct. 19 - 22, 2023 Fair Hill
maryland5star.us

Washington International Horse Show

Oct. 23 - 29, 2023 Prince George's Equestrian Center
wihs.org

Canter for the Cause

Oct. 29, 2023 Pimlico Race Course
pimlico.com

Horse Discovery Centers

Want to meet a horse? Contact the HDC closest to you!
MDA.maryland.gov/horseboard/Pages/horse_board.aspx



MarylandHorse.com/maryland-horse-month

Carol A. Kaye—Air Token: May 29, 7th race, \$5,400. Can the Queen: May 28, 4th race, \$8,370. (\$13,770)

Timothy L. Keefe—Watch Me Disappear: May 7, 1st race, \$1,125; May 26, 5th race, \$1,125. (\$2,250)

Toni M. Kirwan—Vixsinskelkibanshe: April 30, 6th race, \$1,620.

Lady Olivia at North Cliff LLC—Long Rap Sheet: May 27, 3rd race, \$652.50.

Carl Lanier—Box N Ben: April 14, 6th race, \$1,980; May 4, 5th race, \$1,980. May 13, 9th race, \$810. (\$4,770)

James Lee Lawrence II and Lawrence Stables Inc.—My Mamba: May 5, 2nd race, \$967.50.

Kenneth F. Lowe Jr.—Fowl Nation: April 1, 2nd race, \$3,375/\$1,125; April 29, 11th race, \$3,510. Special Freedom: April 7, 3rd race, \$765. Willow Wood: May 29, 2nd race, \$5,805. (\$14,580)

LRM Stable LLC—Gold Digging Broad: May 4, 3rd race, \$990; May 27, 6th race, \$990. (\$1,980)

Cal Lynch, Dr. Tom Keenan and Spendthrift Farm—Under the Overpass: May 26, 7th race, \$1,170.

Magic Carpet Racing—Buckin' Lucky: May 5, 3rd race, \$1,170.

Estate of Robert T. Manfuso—Catch the Kitten: May 27, 9th race, \$990.

Robert T. Manfuso, Katharine M. Voss and Casey J. Randall—Twice Gold: April 1, 9th race, \$4,860/\$1,620; May 5, 2nd race, \$1,935. (\$8,415)

Marathon Farm Inc.—Super E: May 25, 3rd race, \$810.

Daniel E. Marconi—Bella Bettina: April 30, 2nd race, \$4,860. Galerio: April 20, 7th race, \$2,790; May 6, 10th race, \$2,790; May 29, 8th race, \$2,790. (\$13,230)

Helen C. Marshall—Take Charge Too: May 4, 8th race, \$3,960.

Mary E. Eppler Racing Stable and A. Leonard Pineau—Crush It: April 14, 1st race, \$585; April 30, 3rd race, \$585. (\$1,170)

Maryland Mare Venture LLC—Ellie Victorina: May 7, 5th race, \$776.25.

Peter D. Mattson—Angelo of Canterbury: April 7, 4th race, \$5,400.

Ann Warfield Merryman and Richard F. Blue Jr.—Gift of Gab: May 27, 2nd race, \$1,935.

Elizabeth M. Merryman—Midnight Renegade: May 25, 6th race, \$5,940.

Mike Dalton LLC—Sneaking Suspicion: April 30, 5th race, \$990.

Kevin P. Morgan—Rahmer: April 16, 9th race, \$1,080.

Murmur Farm—Royal Spy: May 4, 4th race, \$2,970; May 28, 7th race, \$585. (\$3,555)

Nancy Lee Farms—The Thinker: April 14, 5th race, \$776.25; May 25, 8th race, \$1,035. (\$1,811.25)

No Guts No Glory Farm—Cocktail Dreaming: April 6, 2nd race, \$3,510; April 16, 7th race, \$776.25. General J R: April 6, 8th race, \$652.50. (\$4,938.75)

Northwoods Stable—Northern Rye: May 6, 3rd race, \$990.

David W. Palmer—Prepare for Takeoff: April 7, 8th race, \$3,240; April 20, 3rd race, \$405. (\$3,645)

Frank A. Perri Jr.—Peachessweetnotion: April 7, 5th race, \$990.

A. Leonard Pineau—Crossland: April 13, 7th race, \$1,080.

Joel Politi—Bosserrati: May 12, 4th race, \$4,725. Dunder Boss: April 13, 4th race, \$1,170. Thunder Boss: April 2, 1st race, \$1,125; May 26, 5th race, \$562.50. (\$7,582.50)

Ponder Hill Inc.—Lil' Late Luck: April 14, 2nd race, \$810.

Charles J. Reed—Johnyz From Albany: May 19, 8th race, \$2,700.

Tim Ritchey and Janet Ritchey—Dancer's Melody: April 20, 3rd race, \$2,430; May 11, 6th race, \$990; May 18, 1st race, \$1,170. (\$4,590)

Cynthia K. Rickman—Crownedcountcristo: May 11, 8th race, \$540; May 27, 1st race, \$3,240. (\$3,780)

Randy Ridgely—Badger Tooth: April 2, 2nd race, \$495; May 4, 4th race, \$990. (\$1,485)

Nancy M. Rizer and Eric A. Rizer—Prince Kokachin: April 29, 9th race, \$13,500.

Rolling Meadows Farm—Brooklyn Girl: May 14, 5th race, \$2,340. Daisy My Name: May 14, 3rd race, \$1,980. (\$4,320)

Timothy J. Rooney—Money's Worth: May 12, 8th race, \$2,160. Pietrelcina: May 26, 3rd race, \$990. The Girl from Ireland: April 16, 6th race, \$7,020; May 20, 5th race, \$1,350. (\$11,520)

Alexandro Rubim-Dias—Award Wanted: April 15, 7th race, \$2,250.

Sagamore Farm LLC—Where Paradise Lay: May 4, 7th race, \$2,790.

Shamrock Farm—Albertano: April 6, 6th race, \$1,170.

Janice Sinatra—Daredavite: May 25, 8th race, \$3,105. Jackie A: May 18, 6th race, \$5,400.

S S Sinatra: April 13, 3rd race, \$1,620. (\$10,125)

Skeedattle Associates—Best Choice Baby: April 16, 4th race, \$3,375/\$1,125; May 11, 4th race, \$585. Hot Choice: May 28, 2nd race, \$810. (\$5,895)

Franklin G. Smith Sr.—Porch Swing: April 6, 3rd race, \$1,170; May 5, 6th race, \$5,940/\$1,980. (\$9,090)

South Branch Equine LLC—Who's Counting: May 5, 8th race, \$6,480.

Matt Spencer and Kelly Cox—Not as Lucky as Us: April 14, 9th race, \$562.50; April 29, 1st race, \$562.50. (\$1,125)

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—Addy's Laddy T N T: May 13, 1st race, \$1,260. Circling the Drain: May 20, 12th race, \$2,250. Dulce Kiara: April 1, 7th race, \$1,170; April 15, 2nd race, \$1,440; May 18, 1st race, \$3,510. Frightland: April 13, 7th race, \$2,160. Goodafternoonoscar: April 6, 3rd race, \$7,020. Library of Congress: May 26, 3rd race, \$5,940. (\$24,750)

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC and Ellen Charles—Contempt: April 14, 6th race, \$5,940. Hardspun Reason: April 13, 5th race, \$1,080. (\$7,020)

Thomas L. Teal—Rad Paisley: April 16, 9th race, \$6,480.

James F. Thames—Notion to Tapit: April 13, 1st race, \$517.50.

The Elkstone Group LLC—Alvy: May 18, 4th race, \$3,510. Can't Pass It Up: May 12, 1st race, \$382.50. Cover the Spread: May 14, 6th race, \$7,290. It's Viper: May 14, 4th race, \$7,290; May 27, 8th race, \$6,480. Rationalmillennial: April 20, 2nd race, \$517.50. Red Wine Time: April 20, 2nd race, \$3,105. Solving Progress: May 14, 5th race, \$7,020. The Addison Pour: May 5, 1st race, \$4,860. Vax a Nation: May 26, 1st race, \$1,980. (\$42,435)

Thormar Farm LLC—Just the Thing: May 7, 3rd race, \$990. Raise Your Game: April 7, 8th race, \$1,080; April 20, 1st race, \$3,510; May 27, 4th race, \$585. Thataway: April 15, 5th race, \$7,290. (\$13,455)

Two Legends Farm—Devil Pays in Gold: April 29, 7th race, \$1,215; May 29, 3rd race, \$1,552.50. (\$2,767.50)

Walter N. Vieser II—All Threes: April 13, 7th race, \$6,480; April 29, 2nd race, \$7,830. April 29, 2nd race, \$7,830. Italian Dressing: April 14, 7th race, \$6,480. (\$20,790)

Susan Wantz—Black Diamond Rain: April 2, 8th race, \$4,860; May 6, 2nd race, \$967.50. He's On Fire: April 29, 11th race, \$585; May 18, 4th race, \$585. (\$6,997.50)

Dr. and Mrs. Bruce C. Wells—Rascally Rebel: May 27, 7th race, \$776.25. Running River: April 15, 5th race, \$2,430. (\$3,206.25)

John E. Williamson III—Ournationonparade: April 14, 8th race, \$9,450.

Donald Clifford Wilson—Downtown Katie: May 4, 6th race, \$6,480; May 20, 5th race, \$2,700. Thencomemorning: April 13, 4th race, \$585. (\$9,765)

Winding Creek Farm—Dr. Snyder: May 4, 8th race, \$990. Whiskey and You: May 4, 7th race, \$1,395. (\$2,385)

ZWP Stable and Non Stop Stable—Fast Tracked: April 14, 7th race, \$1,080.

Stallion bonuses

BANDBOX (Box N Ben: April 14, 6th race, \$660; May 4, 5th race, \$660; May 13, 9th race, \$270. Dulce Kiara: April 1, 7th race, \$390; April 15, 2nd race, \$480; May 18, 1st race, \$1,170). Bandbox Syndicate—\$3,630.

BARBADOS (Albertano: April 6, 6th race, \$390). Shamrock Farm.

BLOFELD (Brooklyn Girl: May 14, 5th race, \$780. Johnyz From Albany: May 19, 8th race, \$900. Pray for the U S A: May 14, 8th race, \$1,080. Royal Spy: May 4, 4th race, \$990; May 28, 7th race, \$195). Blofeld Syndicate—\$3,945.

BOURBON COURAGE (Cocktail Dreaming: April 6, 2nd race, \$1,170; April 16, 7th race,

\$258.75. Donna's Courage: April 30, 6th race, \$1,620. Double Crown: May 29, 8th race, \$465. I Have Courage: April 2, 1st race, \$187.50; May 7, 1st race, \$1,125. May 29, 1st race, \$202.50. Proper Storm: May 26, 6th race, \$405). Bourbon Courage Syndicate—\$5,433.75.

BUFFUM (My Super Sally: May 11, 6th race, \$165). Buffum Syndicate.

CAL NATION (Ournationonparade: April 14, 8th race, \$3,150). Cal Nation Syndicate.

DESPITE THE ODDS (Despite Odds: April 13, 2nd race, \$210. Summer Odds: May 12, 8th race, \$360. Utterly Enchanting: May 11, 6th race, \$990). R. Larry Johnson—\$1,560.

DIVINING ROD (Baton: May 27, 8th race, \$360. Dry Well: May 13, 8th race, \$435. Flaming East: May 13, 4th race, \$127.50. Jason-takeslong: May 29, 5th race, \$165. Kellan: May 25, 4th race, \$780. Liquidator: April 14, 4th race, \$810. Rascally Rebel: May 27, 7th race, \$258.75. Rustys Givefifty: April 1, 5th race, \$600. Sweet Talia: April 6, 4th race, \$360. Water Witch: April 20, 2nd race, \$345; May 13, 2nd race, \$1,575. Willow Wood: May 29, 2nd race, \$1,935; Wonder Water: May 12, 2nd race, \$1,215). Divining Rod Syndicate—\$9,966.25.

DORTMUND (Dolice Vita: May 12, 7th race, \$240; May 27, 8th race, \$720. Evangeline Allons: May 18, 2nd race, \$1,620). Kaleem S. Shah—\$2,580.

EDITORIAL (Daily Planet: May 13, 2nd race, \$525. Odinson: May 4, 8th race, \$1,320). Climax Stallions LLC—\$1,845.

FREEDOM CHILD (Fowl Nation: April 1, 2nd race, \$1,125; April 29, 11th race, \$1,170. Mit Mazel: April 29, 8th race, \$750; May 28, 5th race, \$300. Special Freedom: April 7, 3rd race, \$255. Tom Terrific: April 15, 1st race, \$270; May 27, 5th race, \$135). Freedom Child Syndicate—\$4,005.

FRIESAN FIRE (Bernie's On Fire: May 6, 4th race, \$270. He's On Fire: April 29, 11th race, \$195; May 18, 4th race, \$195. Hot Choice: May 28, 2nd race, \$270. Thencomemorning: April 13, 4th race, \$195. Whiskey and You: May 4, 7th race, \$465. Willful Desire: May 29, 1st race, \$1,215). Friesan Fire Syndicate—\$2,805.

GOLDEN LAD (Addy's Laddy T N T: May 13, 1st race, \$420. Air Token: May 29, 7th race, \$1,800. Crownedcountcristo: May 11, 8th race, \$180; May 27, 1st race, \$1,080. Flirtatious Lass: May 12, 8th race, \$2,160. Gallant Gold: May 29, 7th race, \$300. Golden Angel: April 2, 1st race, \$1,125. Goldrush Hottie: May 12, 3rd race, \$780. Just the Thing: May 7, 3rd race, \$330. Ladneedsahandler: April 16, 9th race, \$720. Oxide: April 2, 2nd race, \$990. Rahmer: April 16, 9th race, \$360. Remembering Wilbur: May 13, 4th race, \$765. Rowsie Express: May 5, 4th race, \$258.75. Twice Gold: April 1, 9th race, \$1,620; May 5, 2nd race, \$645). Golden Lad Syndicate—\$13,533.75.

GREAT NOTION (All Threes: April 13, 7th race, \$2,160; April 29, 2nd race, \$2,610. Always-inahurry: April 15, 8th race, \$4,500; April 29, 10th race, \$1,500. Brilliant Ice: May 25, 2nd race, \$810. Brzina: April 16, 8th race, \$2,160; May 6, 8th race, \$300; May 28, 5th race, \$600. Freddy: April 2, 3rd race, \$195. Great Heavens: May 4, 5th race, \$1,980. Heldish: May 19, 8th race, \$450. Italian Dressing: April 14, 7th race, \$2,160. Karan's Notion: April 29, 10th race, \$750. Meliponini Bee: May 12, 4th race, \$262.50. My Flicker: May 28, 5th race, \$1,800. Noah Chance: May 11, 7th race, \$720. Notion to Tapit: April 13, 1st race, \$172.50. Peachessweetnotion: April 7, 5th race, \$330. Rock the Boat: May 20, 1st race, \$2,700. Sneaking Suspicion: April 30, 5th race, \$330. Tam Char: April 30, 4th race, \$1,440; May 14, 7th race, \$810. Tenax: April 20, 8th race, \$1,620. Watch Me Disappear: May 7, 1st race, \$375; May 26, 5th race, \$375). Great Notion Syndicate—\$31,110.

HOLY BOSS (Boss Man J J: April 20, 8th race, \$540. Bosserrati: May 12, 4th race, \$1,575. Bossyness: April 16, 7th race, \$517.50; May 5, 4th race, \$517.50. Crossland: April 13, 7th race, \$360. Dunder Boss: April 13, 4th race, \$390. General J R: April 6, 8th race, \$217.50. Thunder Boss: April 2, 1st race, \$375; May 26, 5th race, \$187.50. Vance Scholars: April 14, 8th race, \$525). Holy Boss Syndicate—\$5,205.

HUNTERS BAY (Brushing: April 15, 2nd race, \$240). Stronach Group LP.

IMAGINING (Badger Tooth: April 2, 2nd race, \$165; May 4, 4th race, \$330. Imagine Victory: May 18, 2nd race, \$270. Proper Attire: April 2, 7th race, \$870. Winked: May 14, 7th race, \$405). Imagining Syndicate—\$2,040.

IRISH WAR CRY (Italian War Cry: April 7, 5th race, \$660. Mungo Magic: April 30, 1st race, \$1,125. Porch Swing: April 6, 3rd race, \$390; May 5, 6th race, \$1,980. Spunky Irishman: April 30, 1st race, \$187.50. Vix-sinkeltkbanshe: April 30, 6th race, \$540). Northview Stallion Station Inc.—\$4,882.50.

KOBE'S BACK (My Mamba: May 5, 2nd race, \$322.50). Bonita Farm.

LONG RIVER (And Whistle: April 14, 4th race, \$405. Food Foodie: April 6, 8th race, \$1,305; May 12, 2nd race, \$405. Jones Falls: May 25, 8th race, \$172.50. Long Rap Sheet: May 27, 3rd race, \$217.50. Running River: April 15, 5th race, \$810). Long River Syndicate—\$3,315.

MADEFROMLUCKY (Best Choice Baby: April 16, 4th race, \$1,125; May 11, 4th race, \$195. Buckin' Lucky: May 5, 3rd race, \$390. Lil' Late Luck: April 14, 2nd race, \$270. Not as Lucky as Us: April 14, 9th race, \$187.50; April 29, 1st race, \$187.50). Madefromlucky Syndicate—\$2,355.

MOSLER (Blueberry Indigo: May 13, 5th race, \$262.50. Esperannna: April 14, 3rd race, \$390; May 26, 4th race, \$810. Hello Hot Rod: April 15, 8th race, \$1,500. Lady Mosler: April 7, 5th race, \$1,980; May 12, 4th race, \$525. Luv Ya Bye Bye: May 26, 9th race, \$375. Pay Zone: May 25, 6th race, \$660. Sapphire Beauty: May 28, 3rd race, \$172.50. Wicked Prankster: May 6, 9th race, \$465). Mosler Syndicate—\$7,140.

NO NEVER NO MORE (Dr. Snyder: May 4, 8th race, \$330). Tigertail Ranch.

NORUMBEGA (Acadian Girl: April 1, 8th race, \$1,800). Bonita Farm and Stuart Janney III LLC.

NOT FOR LOVE (Clubman: April 2, 5th race, \$480; April 29, 5th race, \$750; May 12, 7th race, \$1,440. Crush It: April 14, 1st race, \$195; April 30, 3rd race, \$195. Hot N Spicy Love: April 29, 6th race, \$1,170). Not For Love Syndicate—\$4,230.

ORIENTATE (Prince Pere: April 20, 8th race, \$270; May 11, 7th race, \$2,160). Orientate Syndicate—\$2,430.

REDEEMED (Going to the Lead: April 7, 6th race, \$870. Patriotic Party: May 4, 2nd race, \$1,035). Redeemed Syndicate—\$1,905.

ROCK SLIDE (Seven On the Rocks: April 29, 3rd race, \$435). Shamrock Farms.

SCIPION (The Last Scip: May 26, 2nd race, \$1,035). Audrey Murray for Scipion Syndicate.

SEVILLE (GER) (Chelichna: May 6, 1st race, \$540. Downtown Katie: May 4, 6th race, \$2,160; May 20, 5th race, \$900. Mint Game: May 5, 8th race, \$720. Sky's Not Falling: May 6, 9th race, \$2,790). Seville Syndicate—\$7,110.

STREET MAGICIAN (Clouds of White: May 25, 1st race, \$1,980. Fashionista: April 2, 8th race, \$270; May 25, 1st race, \$330. Jumpingjaggerflash: May 7, 3rd race, \$1,980. Street Lute: April 29, 9th race, \$750. Street Tough: May 26, 7th race, \$2,340. Wheniget-toheaven: May 11, 7th race, \$360). R. Larry Johnson—\$8,010.

SUPER NINETY NINE (Ace Nine Nine: April 14, 1st race, \$390. Bad Temper: May 7, 2nd race, \$1,035). Country Life Farm—\$1,425.



- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - September 2023 -

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Claimed for just \$10,000, Beach Daze is now a stakes winner

By Bill Finley

In her debut, the New Jersey-bred filly Beach Daze did not show much. At least on paper. In a 2021 Jersey-bred maiden special weight at the Meadowlands, she was eighth, beaten 14½ lengths. But trainer Farrell Mann had a different take. He put the race under a microscope and decided that it was better than it looked.

"Her first race wasn't that bad," he said. "She ran short on the turf and I watched her run and I liked her action and the way she ran. I also liked her breeding. There were a lot of things I liked about her. She was just immature in her first race. It was not the kind of thing where you see a horse run and say that she has got no talent they need to drop her down to the bottom."

So when Beach Daze, who is by Blofeld and was bred by Lenny and Beth Rera, showed up next in a \$10,000 maiden claimer at Parx, the veteran trainer pounced. He claimed her that day for \$10,000. She finished second, beaten 1½ lengths. While that did not mean she was a star, it did show that Mann was right, that she was better than she showed in her debut and probably could win some races somewhere.

"You never know," he said. "I've been in the business for 50 years and I've seen horses that were claimed for little money that did well. A good friend of mine, Steve Appel, claimed a horse named Whistle Pig for \$10,000 and the horse was a \$1,000 short of making \$1 million. I've never really spent a lot of money on a



horse. You do what I do and you always hope that the horse can be something."

Maybe even a stakes winner. Beach Daze has gone on to surpass even Mann's expectations. She finished second against open company in the 2022 Main Line Stakes at Parx and won a \$72,000 Jersey-bred allowance later that year at Monmouth. The best, however, was yet to come. After finishing second in the Spruce Fir Handicap, she became a stakes winner when capturing the Smart N Classy Handicap June 4 at Monmouth. The win increased her career earnings to \$237,580.

Ridden by Adam Bowman, Beach Daze looked beaten on the far turn. She had made a bold move along the rail but couldn't keep up with Mia's Crusade, who shook free from her rivals and opened up by two lengths a furlong out. But Beach Daze found another gear, re-rallied and got up just before the wire to win by a neck over Riding Pretty.



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"I wasn't worried because I have a lot of faith in Adam Bowman," Mann said. "He's a very patient rider and his horses always give it their all. Every time she runs, in the stretch, she really starts to dig in. Adam has figured her out. So I was confident that she would be right there at the end."

The win ended a streak of five straight races where Beach Daze hit the board but couldn't find her way to the winner's circle.

"I wasn't at all frustrated with her," Mann said. "It wasn't the kind of situation where she was running and wasn't showing the ability to get by horses or coming up short. She just happened to be in situations where a horse may have gotten a real easy lead and opened up a

bunch of lengths and she came running after them. "

For Mann, it was one of the biggest wins of his long career. The 70-year-old veteran, who is based at Parx, first got into the business as an owner in the 1980s. In 1999, he decided to get into training and opened up a small stable on the Mid-Atlantic circuit. Prior to Beach Daze, his best horse was Programable. A New York-bred by Distinctive Pro, he won a Claiming Crown race in 2000.

"I've really enjoyed being a trainer," he said. "I have brought friends and other people into racing and everybody is having fun with it."

Mann wasn't sure what was next for Beach Daze. The Jersey Girl Handicap turned up July 8 at a mile on the turf.

Beach Daze's only other career turf start was her inauspicious maiden voyage. But Mann didn't think she would have any problem and wanted to give her another try. On the firm going, she finished ninth of 11.

He said running in an open company allowance on the dirt is another option.

In the meantime, he's got a New Jersey-bred who has been in top form and versatile enough that she can sprint or route. Adding to her career earnings shouldn't be a problem.

"That she was a Jersey-bred definitely had something to do with why we claimed her," Mann said. "It's always good to have a Jersey-bred in the barn. The purses they run for; it makes life a lot easier on a trainer."

Irish Boolum romps in Friendly Lover Handicap



EQUI-Photo, Inc.

And if that wasn't enough for the pluck of the Irish on a day they were being celebrated, the winner is trained by Derry, Northern Ireland, native Cal Lynch.

"Whatever the reason is for it I'll take it," said Lynch.

Idle since a listless eighth-place finish in his last outing on March 1 at Parx, Irish Boolum looped past the slow early pace being set by 7-10 favorite He'spuregold and Paco Lopez, and then left the field in his wake with a burst that quickly separated him from his six rivals. The winning time was 1:39.73.

The all-Irish horse-named exacta returned \$170.20 for \$2.

"I know this horse well," said winning rider Angel Arroyo, 3-for-3 after the win with 4-year-old gelded son of Exaggerator. "I knew he was 100 percent ready to go off the layoff. Usually he is far back. I wanted to sit five or six lengths back. But when I saw how slow the pace was for the first half mile I had to move.

"Today the slow pace actually helped me. It kept me closer early on. And when he was ready to go he took off. I had nice position and I was clear and I just let him run."

Lopez, Monmouth Park's leading rider, employed the same early tactics he did in winning the Lady's Secret Stakes the day before, taking the field to an opening quarter in a plodding :25.76 and then to the half in :49.86. It didn't work this time, with Arroyo sensing the slow pace and letting his horse loop the field.

Irish Boolum is owned and was bred by Isabelle de Tomaso, a daughter of Amory Haskell, for whom Monmouth Park's showcase race is named.

"The pace today was so slow early. I guess that's why he was so close early on. He usually gets out-footed," said Lynch. "Angel Arroyo saw the pace was slow and put him right there. He's done nothing wrong against state-breds. They take turns beating each other. There's not a lot that separates them. But today's performance was quite impressive."



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In posting his fourth win from 16 career starts, Irish Boolum had three wins and four seconds from eight lifetime races at Monmouth Park. Lynch said the nearly 15-week layoff was a much needed one.

"We freshened him a little and it seems like it helped," said Lynch. "Isabella

de Tomaso has been real patient with this horse and let him develop at his own pace last year. He went down to Delaware Park and worked down there with my wife Daniella. That track is a little deeper and it has been playing tough. So his last couple of works have been really impressive.

"We weren't sure we were tight enough coming off the layoff. I thought Kelly Breen's horse [He'spuregold] would be very tough in there. In his last race at Parx, Irish Boolum just didn't handle the track. So we decided to freshen him up and get him back with Jersey-breds."

He'spuregold three-peats in Irish War Cry Handicap

The Irish War Cry Handicap may need to be renamed in the years to come at Monmouth Park.

The He'spuregold Stakes might be more appropriate

He'spuregold, a 5-year-old gelding, rallied from off the pace to collar There Are No Words in the final sixteenth of a mile to win the \$85,000 Irish War Cry Handicap at Monmouth Park July 9 – the third straight year the Kelly Breen-trainee has won the race.

Bred by John Bowers Jr. and owned by Roseland Farm Stable, He'spuregold increased his record to seven wins from 21 career starts – six coming on the grass. The son of Vancouver has won four state-bred stakes at Monmouth Park.

"I kind of envisioned what happened today. I thought Chuck Spina's horse [There Are No Words] would be right there and it would be a little bit of a stretch duel between us and that's what happened," said Breen. "He's a special horse. I'm going through a lot right now

(physically). With the time I've missed (following neck fusion surgery in mid-May), to come back after three weeks with the barn in such good order and this horse in such good order I have to tip my hat to my crew.

"Jesus Gomez is in charge when I'm gone. He's been with me for 20 years. Despite me missing time we're having a good meet and I really think that's a credit to the good help I have."

Ridden by Paco Lopez, He'spuregold returned \$3.60 to win as the favorite in the field of 10 Jersey-breds going a mile on the turf.

The winning time over a course listed as firm was 1:34.01.

"I think this horse wants to go a little longer so I wasn't really comfortable with a mile today," said Lopez. "But he broke well and there were those three horses were having a duel early and I was able to get him comfortable and see everything happening.

"He is so much better as a grass horse.



EQUUPHOTO, INC.

He's a different horse on the turf. He has won a race on the dirt but I don't know how since he is so good on the grass."

With Crafty Don, Smithwick's Spice, and Leo Monte all dueling for the lead through early fractions of :22.95 and :46.62, Lopez had He'spuregold in fifth, just behind There Are No Words.

Coming out of the turn There Are No Words got the jump on the field and opened a 1½-length lead in mid-stretch before He'spuregold caught him late to win by three-quarters of a length. It was another 8½ lengths back to Smithwick's Spice in third.

He'spuregold now has a 5-1-0 line from seven career starts on the Monmouth turf.

Invader to stand at Pegasus Stud

Pegasus Stud in Colts Neck has purchased the Kentucky-bred stallion Invader, who will stand his first season at stud in 2024 at Pegasus Stud, the facility owned by Carmine Spinella.

Invader, a striking son of War Front out of the graded stakes-winning mare Say (Ire), is a full-brother to Grade 1 winner Fog of War and group stakes-placed stakes winner Naval Intelligence.

His dam Say (Ire) was a group stakes winner and Group 1-placed in the United Kingdom; second dam is three-time Grade 1 winner and multimillionaire Riskaverse (by Dynaformer).



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The deal to acquire Invader was tasked by Carmine Spinella to prominent bloodstock advisor and racing manager Rick Sacco.

"Invader has a world class pedigree, excellent conformation and size. The stakes winner hails from a very live female family. His 2-year-old half-sister by Justify recently sold for \$556,042 at Goffs," Sacco said.

"I told Rick that we had to have a stallion that complemented our current stud Sea Wizard," said Spinella. "I wanted to offer New Jersey breeders a stallion with a top-class pedigree for turf. I'm very excited about standing a horse like Invader at my newly acquired farm and

to offer this type of pedigree."

"Sea Wizard displayed his talent on dirt and is off to a fast start at stud in New Jersey," Spinella added. "The turf program offered for New Jersey-breds at Monmouth Park in overnight and stakes races is awesome."

A \$500,000 Keeneland September Yearling Sale purchase in 2018 by Cromwell Bloodstock, Invader scored by 12¾ lengths in a maiden special weight running 1 mile at Turfway Park as a 2-year-old for trainer Wesley Ward.

The War Front colt followed up that effort in his next start, as a 3-year-old, with another spectacular Turfway Park score in the John Battaglia Memorial

Stakes, winning by almost seven lengths.

A month later, Invader finished a game second, by a neck, in the Grade 3 \$250,000 Jeff Ruby Steaks behind Field Pass. It would be the final start of his 3-year-old campaign due to injury. He returned at 4 to hit the board in all three starts.

Invader's relocation to Pegasus Stud is expected to be a major boost to the lucrative New Jersey-bred program offered at Monmouth Park.

"I'm committed to the New Jersey-bred program," Spinella said. "With the purse incentive structure in New Jersey, there's such good opportunity in the state."

Princess Avary wins Jersey Girl Handicap



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Tim Shaw is going to savor this win for a while.

After 22 years as a trainer, and 1,337 starts, Shaw notched his first career stakes win when front-running Precious Avary held on for a neck victory in the \$85,000 Jersey Girl Handicap at Monmouth Park July 8, doing so at odds of 22-1.

The win was the third in a row for the 3-year-old daughter of Divining Rod, all coming since she returned to facing New Jersey-breds.

"It's a great feeling," said Shaw. "It

means the beer is going to be colder, the steak is going to taste better. I've only run two horses in stakes races in my career and she is one of them. Mostly I claim horses and have some home-breds with limited ability. But I never had a real horse who could run like this one."

Racing against older fillies and mares, and stretching out on the turf for the first time, Precious Avary was put on the lead by jockey Silvestre Gonzalez, loped through an opening quarter in :25.08 and a first half in :50.24 and had just enough left to hold off 2-1 Bramble Bay, who was charging up the rail. It was another 1¾ lengths back to Riding Pretty in third.

The winning time for the mile over a turf course listed as firm was 1:37.31.

"She's in very good form right now," said Gonzalez. "She just loves to run – dirt, turf, short, long. She's just game. She comes out of there and gives 100 percent."

"When I broke out of there and I saw there was no speed I put her on the lead and then grabbed her and she rated very well today. She settled in nicely, we got an easy pace and that helped us down the stretch. Right now, she's in a happy place.

She's a Jersey-bred and in these Jersey-bred races she fits very well."

The victory was her fourth straight against state-bred company, the last three coming at Monmouth Park this year.

"I think the change back to Jersey-bred company has given her confidence again," said Shaw, who keeps a 10-horse stable based at Parx. "She had a good race against open company at Penn National to start the year and that was kind of the spark. Then once we were able to get her into Jersey-bred company it seemed her confidence kept building."

"It's a little of a case of being back with her own company thing, being back with some confidence, and she's a 3-year-old filly who is getting better. She's won short turf, long dirt, slop going short, and now turf going two turns. Honestly, I don't know what she wants or what she's best at. As long as Monmouth stays open I think we have to keep her with Jersey-breds."

Bred and owned by Smith Farm and Stable, Precious Avary now has a 4-2-1 line from 10 career starts for earnings of \$201,460.



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North Carolina



THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

September 2023

President's message

Congratulations to Art Bauer, Gerard Eckhardt, George and Debra Eckhardt – Jimmer Racing, Dan Shea – Shea D Boy's Stable, Nancy Shuford and Bill Williams for their wins.

As always, kudos to everyone who had horses show up on the track. Wow! What a great two days of racing Dan Shea had. It's good to be Dan.

Please welcome new members George and Debra Eckhardt from Ohio and thanks to Gerard for his recruiting. They are all part of the Hartful Hope (NC) team.

Hip, Hip Hooray! North Carolina's house and senate passed the Sports Wager-

ing Bill that includes parimutuel horse racing betting. Race entries picked up for us. I will try to keep up and send notices more frequently. Thank you for all your support.

—Rebecca

Race Review



Juvenile filly Foxy Cleopatra wins first time out at Presque Isle for breeder Nancy Shuford.
©Coady Photography

May/June

Allegheny Hero (Mr. Sidney out of Allegheny Red, by Roanoke) won May 26 for breeders Dr. and Mrs. E.C. Lowry and owner Dr. E Clint Lowry. The 4-year-old bay gelding ran 4½ furlongs in :54.30.

Breaking from post position three, the gelding ran off the rail, then moved into the two-lane, dueled with the leader in the stretch, and drew off at the eighth-pole to win by 2¼ lengths.

Danz a Rebel (Revolutionary out of Sister Chelsey, by Chelsey Cat), won at Assiniboia Downs (Canada) for breeder Nancy Shuford. The 7-year-old dark bay gelding ran 5 furlongs on a fast dirt track in :59.51. He broke from post position seven, fought for the lead down the stretch, and drew off at the three-eighths pole to cross the wire three-quarters lengths ahead of the pack.

Foxy Cleopatra (Munnings out of One Foxy Grey, by Big Brown) won at Presque Isle Downs June 12 for breeder Nancy Shuford. The 2-year-old dark bay filly broke her maiden at first asking, going 4½ furlongs in :51.63. The filly broke from post position four, chased the pace, moved outside the leader around the turn, and gained ground to win by a half length.

July

My Shea D Lady (Solomini out of Ladyberg, by Teuflesberg) won at first asking at Gulfstream Park July 1 for owner Dan Shea – Shea D Boy's Stable. The 2-year-old bay filly came out chasing the front-runners, gained ground around the far turn and cleared the pack down the stretch to win by 3¼ lengths. She ran 5 furlongs in :58.61 and became the first winner for her freshman sire.

Shea D World (World of Trouble out of Sweet Saturday, by Any Given Saturday) broke his maiden in his first race at Gulf-

stream Park July 2 for owner Dan Shea – Shea D Boy's Stable. The 2-year-old dark bay colt led gate-to-wire – when challenged in the stretch he dug in to win by a neck. He ran 5 furlongs in :58.64.

Trigger Happy (Gun Runner out of Stayclassysandiego, by Rockport Harbor) won at Ellis Park July 8 for breeder Nancy

Shuford. The 4-year-old gray gelding was never far off the pace and pressed the leader until taking the lead entering the stretch to win by 1½ lengths and get the mile on the turf in 1:35.22.

Gospel Way (Brody's Cause out of Bible Belt, by Pulpit) won a Colonial Downs allowance July 21 for breeder Bill Thomp-

son. The 5-year-old dark bay gelding ran 1⅞ miles on the turf in 1:50.15. Gospel Way was restrained while stalking the pace from inside, moved two-wide on the backstretch, then three-wide at the quarter pole while gaining ground, then four-wide around the turn and drove home to win by a nose.

Hitting the Board

May 25 – June 24, 2023

Date	Horse	Track	NCTA Connection	RESULTS
26-May	Gulfstream Way	Churchill Downs	Bred by Denise Walsh	3rd
26-May	Allegheny Hero	Charles Town	Bred & owned by Clint Lowry	WINNER!
30-May	Danz a Rebel	Assiniboia Downs	Bred by Nancy Shuford	WINNER!
2-Jun	My Dixie Lass	Penn National 100K Lyphard S	Bred & owned by Jim Chandley	2nd
2-Jun	Fletcher	Penn National \$400K Penn Mile G2 S	Bred & owned by Jim Chandley	3rd
2-Jun	Trigger Happy	Churchill Downs	Bred by Nancy Shuford	2nd
2-Jun	Tough To Tame	Charles Town	Bred by Beth Muirhead	3rd
12-Jun	Foxy Cleopatra	Presque Isle Downs	Bred by Nancy Shuford	WINNER!
16-Jun	Atomic Blonde	Belmont Park	Owned by Caroline Cooper in partnership	2nd
21-Jun	Lil Miss Moonlight	Canterbury Park \$75K Stakes	Owned by Caroline Cooper in partnership	3rd
21-Jun	Danz a Rebel	Assiniboia Downs	Bred by Nancy Shuford	2nd
24-Jun	Tough To Tame	Charles Town	Bred by Beth Muirhead	WINNER!

June 25 – July 24, 2023

Date	Horse	Track	NCTA Connection	RESULTS
25-Jun	Jersey Perfection	Monmouth Park	Owned by Ken Orchard - Jet M Stable	2nd
28-Jun	Danz a Rebel	Assinibola Downs	Bred by Nancy Shuford	2nd
30-Jun	Flat Out Flying	Delaware Park	Bred by Beth Muirhead	3rd
1-Jul	Gulfstream Way	Ellis Park	Bred by Denise Walsh	2nd
1-Jul	My Shea D Lady	Gulfstream Park	Owned by Dan Shea - Shea D Boy Stable	WINNER!
2-Jul	Shea D World	Gulfstream Park	Owned by Dan Shea - Shea D Boy Stable	WINNER!
3-Jul	Sag Harbor	Mountaineer	Bred by Nancy Shuford	2nd
6-Jul	Condemnation	Belterra Park	Owned by Caroline Cooper	unplaced
6-Jul	Allegheny Hero	Charles Town	Bred by Clint Lowry	unplaced
8-Jul	Trigger Happy	Ellis Park	Bred by Nancy Shuford	WINNER!
10-Jul	Loki's Lightning	Fort Erie	Owned by Bill Thompson	3rd
12-Jul	Flat Out Flying	Delaware Park	Bred by Beth Muirhead	3rd
15-Jul	After Eight	Colonial Downs	Bred by Nancy Shuford	2nd
18-Jul	Condemnation	Thistledown	Owned by Caroline Cooper	2nd
21-Jul	Gospel Way	Colonial Downs	Bred by Bill Thompson	WINNER!

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PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:**
Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:**
Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:**
Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:**
Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

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Racehorse ownership was love at first bet for Joseph Capriglione

By Nikki Sherman



Barbara Weid/Equi-Photo

Taking the reins has always come naturally to Joseph Capriglione. Growing up in Roselle Park, N.J., his athleticism led him to a high school career as an All-State Baseball Player and he was an integral member of the team that won the 1972 State Championship. That in itself is impressive, but what makes it even more remarkable is that he began a trucking company during his junior year of high school called Cappy's Transport.

"At the height of my trucking career, I owned 50 trucks and had a 500,000 square-foot warehouse space, filled with coffee beans from around the world," Capriglione remembered. "I also owned a men's clothing store and a car wash. I am now retired and my hope has always been to get more involved with my horses during retirement."

Capriglione first became a racehorse owner in 1985 when he and three friends pooled \$4,000 apiece to claim Bushogin Babe with trainer Wendy Mutnik, also a Pennsylvania breeder who is married to trainer Guadalupe Preciado.

About Bushogin Babe, Capriglione said, "It was love at first bet."

He has been with trainers Patricia and Michael Farro for over 20 years. One of the horses he owned, albeit for only a single race, was Pu Dew. The Lucky Lionel mare won 18 of 76 starts and over \$400,000 "the hard way."

Capriglione claimed her during her prime for \$30,000, but she was claimed away in her very next race.

"When Pu Dew was near the end of her racing career, I claimed her back for \$5,000.

I always knew she would make a great broodmare. She gave every race her all. Pu Dew had heart.”

Upon retirement Pu Dew proved Capriglione right, producing PA-Bred winners from matings with Freud, Jump Start and El Padrino. Her first foal, Hey Braciale (Freud) was a five-time winner with nearly \$300,000 in earnings and is now a broodmare in Florida. The El Padrino filly Hey Dewzpots (pronounced “Dew-zee-pots”) is still racing and has three wins so far. But the star is three-time stakes winner Hey Mamaluke (by Jump Start), who is also a fan favorite.

“I chose to breed in PA because the awards were attractive and Pat and Mike Farro have strong ties to Parx,” Capriglione explained. “I also liked for my yearlings to be trained at Betsy Houghton’s Sylmar Farms in Christiana.”

As an homage to his family’s Italian history, Capriglione chose to name his horses after Italian phrases. “Braciale is an Italian meat. Mamaluke is an Italian fool - which she is not! The term Dewzpots means crazy. Uncle Joey is just an Italian name.”

Just a few weeks after foaling Hey Uncle Joey (by Uncle Lino), Pu Dew was tragically injured in a paddock accident. “Joey” found himself with a nurse mare but never made it to the races. Instead, the “handsome, sweet

chestnut Thoroughbred is ready to start his career as a therapy horse.” How apropos!

Hey Mamaluke is by far the most successful of Pu Dew’s offspring and has taken Capriglione on the ride of a lifetime. Now in the middle of her 7-year-old season, she has over \$620,000 in career earnings, not including PA-Bred awards, and 11 wins from 36 starts.

She broke her at Parx in December in her only start at 2. Breaking from the gate a step slow, she swerved greenly throughout the race and even jumped a shadow on the backstretch. It was anything but easy, yet the final margin of victory was an astounding 10¾ lengths.

Hey Mamaluke finished second in her next two allowance starts at 3, including a gutsy race at Aqueduct behind graded stakes-placed Guacamole, who has since been retired and was accepted into champion Authentic’s exclusive first book of mares. Hey Mamaluke captured back-to-back allowance races at Parx twice during her sophomore season and was stakes-placed at Laurel in a year she made 11 starts, won five, with four seconds and earned \$222,019.

The 2020 season was marred by the COVID-19 pandemic, but Hey Mamaluke began 2021 with a bang in the \$100,000 Power by Far Stakes, leading at nearly every call and giving Capriglione his very first stakes win.

The beginning of 2022 saw yet another set of back-to-back victories for Hey Mamaluke, an allowance at Aqueduct and the \$100,000 Penn’s Landing Stakes at Parx Racing where she defeated multiple stakes winner Jakarta. She later finished a hard-fought second by three-quarters of a length behind PA-Bred Horse of the Year Chub Wagon while trying to defend her 2021 Power by Far Stakes win.

Age seems to have no limit with Hey Mamaluke. This year she’s won again at Aqueduct and regained her title in the \$100,000 Power by Far Stakes, holding off a surge of late closers to win by a neck in a three-horse photo over Hidden Cache and Tappin Josie.

“I am so fortunate to have a horse like Mamaluke,” said Capriglione. “She is a very special horse. As a yearling I would visit her on the farm. She was different than the others. She had spunk.”

For now Hey Mamaluke continues to train at Parx under the tutelage of the Farros. But when the time comes, Capriglione is ready to re-enter the Pennsylvania breeding program.

“I definitely plan to go back into breeding when Hey Mamaluke retires. She is the best racehorse I have had in almost 40 years. I know she will make a great broodmare, just like her mother Pu Dew.”

A few words from the Executive Secretary

I’d like to thank PARX Racing, the PTHA, our staff and all the breeders in attendance who made PA Day at the Races another huge success. The food was great, and the racing was spectacular, and \$1,000,000 in purses were paid out to horses that were all bred in Pennsylvania! Our industry supports PA farms, jobs, open space, hundreds of small businesses and \$1.6 billion in economic impact. Thanks also goes out to the NTRA who donated the John Deere Zero Turn Mower. Congrats to the winner.

We just finished up our PHBA 75th Anniversary Booklet. Those in attendance on PA Day received a copy. If you couldn’t attend, you can go to pabred.com and view it on our website. All 2023 breeders will receive a copy in the mail.

The second leg in the 2yo PA-Sired PA-Bred Stallion Series will be run at 6½ fur. on PA Derby Day, Saturday, September 23 at PARX. Those races will carry a purse of \$150,000. Free nominations for the 2yo races close September 4. The \$100,000 Alphabet Soup

Handicap for 3&up at 1¼ miles on the turf and the \$100,000 Plum Pretty Stakes for 3&up at a mile and 70 yards will round out the day for PA-Breds. I can’t wait!

Wishing you a fantastic finish to 2023, and remember, PA is the only place to Breed and Race! Almost 29 million paid out to PA-Bred owners and breeders in Breeder Awards, Owner Bonuses and Restricted Races. Go PA!!





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UP TO 40%
in Owner Bonuses

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in Breeders Awards

\$4 MILLION

in purses for PA-Bred Stakes representing 29 races.

PA-Bred Fund Statistics: Top Earners

January 1 through June 30, 2023

LEADING EARNERS - TOTAL AWARDS

Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total	Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total
Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	248,918	93,927	342,845	Richard Molineaux	94,277	0	94,277
Warriors Reward	179,133	57,769	236,901	Peter Giangulio	79,978	0	79,978
Glenn E. Brok LLC	166,083	57,378	223,462	Joseph Imbesi	75,058	0	75,058
Northview Stallion Station Inc.	0	196,060	196,060	LC Racing LLC	74,368	0	74,368
Steven W. Young Racing LLC	128,539	51,630	180,170	Barbara A. Rickline	64,636	8,364	73,000
Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	67,395	106,582	173,978	Godstone Farm LLC	71,602	0	71,602
Richard N. Miller	106,485	18,711	125,196	Michael Raymond Anspach	68,123	0	68,123
St. Omer's Farm	122,020	0	122,020	Shirley A. Lojeski	63,071	0	63,071
Blackstone Farm LLC	119,488	0	119,488	Pewter Stable	50,326	7,809	58,135
Maria M. Haire	113,213	5,216	118,429	R H Breeding LLC	57,165	0	57,165
William J. Solomon VMD	52,334	60,122	112,456	Sylmar Farm Inc.	55,350	0	55,350
Arrowwood Farm Inc.	100,105	0	100,105	Michael M. Moore	54,381	0	54,381

LEADING STALLIONS

Fund Money includes Stallion Awards only

Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total	Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total
Weigelia	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	131	106,582	Emperor Tiberius	Richard N. Miller	37	16,359
Uptowncharlybrown	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	221	93,927	Eastwood	Glenn E. Brok LLC	30	12,846
Jump Start	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	229	80,593	El Padrino	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	55	12,749
Warrior's Reward	Warriors Reward	124	57,769	Almasty	William J. Solomon VMD	5	11,782
Uncle Lino	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	149	56,231	Red Vine	DB Dojo LLC	43	10,136
Peace and Justice	Steven W. Young Racing LLC	119	51,630	Bullsbay	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	32	9,137
Social Inclusion	Social Inclusion Partners LLC	48	50,610	Golddigger's Boy	Luana J. Johnson	40	8,749
Talent Search	Glenn E Brok LLC	49	42,731	Last Gunfighter	William J. Solomon VMD	40	8,418
Hoppertunity	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	77	27,886	Xixixi	Barbara A. Rickline	21	8,364
Albert the Great	William J. Solomon VMD	28	18,591	Winchill	Pewter Stable	24	7,809
Lord Shanakill	William J. Solomon VMD	58	18,189	Medallist	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	27	7,554
Well Spelled	Godstone Farm LP	60	17,151	Il Villano	Chuck Russo	20	6,783

LEADING HORSES

Fund Money includes: PA-Bred Races, Breeder and Stallion Awards and PA-Bred Owner-Bonus Payments

Horse	Pedigree	Breeder	Races	Stakes	Breeder Award	Stallion Award	Bonus	Total
Disco Ebo *	Weigelia - Katarica Disco	St. Omer's Farm	4	20,000	67,984	16,996	28,560	133,540
Twisted Ride	Great Notion - Diva's Gold	Kasey K Racing Stable Tuffy LLC	5	56,400	36,624	0	13,920	106,944
Gordian Knot *	Social Inclusion - Mia	Joseph Imbesi	1	60,000	30,000	7,500	0	97,500
Hey Mamaluke *	Jump Start - Pu Dew	Joseph T. Capriglione	3	58,800	29,400	7,350	0	95,550
Beren *	Weigelia - Silmaril	Susan C. Quick	3	9,400	44,684	11,171	28,560	93,815
Midnight in Alaska *	Almasty - Working At Night	Maria M. Haire	5	5,880	50,678	11,782	23,520	91,860
Geebert *	Albert the Great - Gee Pari	Richard Molineaux	7	0	46,178	11,545	31,256	88,979
Morning Matcha	Central Banker - Home Ice	Crane Thoroughbred Services LLC	1	60,000	12,000	0	0	72,000
Movisitor	Uncle Mo - Ristretto	Forgotten Land Investments Inc.	2	60,000	12,000	0	0	72,000
Late Frost	Frosted - La La's Cookin	Caroline Bentley	1	59,400	11,880	0	0	71,280
Buy Land and See	Cairo Prince - Twiggles	Joseph Imbesi	1	58,800	11,760	0	0	70,560
Ninetypercentbrynn *	Weigelia - Amblin Easy	LC Racing LLC	3	10,000	36,968	9,242	13,920	70,130
Heartyconstitution	Constitution - Distinct Sparkle	Roberta L. Schneider MD	1	57,600	11,520	0	0	69,120
Uncle Ernie *	Talent Search - Mary Cole	Gilman Hallenbeck	2	18,800	28,552	7,138	13,680	68,170
Date Night Kisses *	Weigelia - Tribal Verse	Emilie Bateman	4	0	34,853	8,713	23,034	66,600
Social Success *	Social Inclusion - Schuyllilla	Shirley A. Lojeski	4	0	48,216	11,580	5,040	64,836
Johnny Ritt *	Weigelia - C J's Little Girl	Barbara Wheeler	6	0	32,536	8,134	23,240	63,910
Wizky's On the Bay *	Talent Search - Sundays On the Bay	Glenn E. Brok LLC	6	0	34,688	8,672	19,360	62,720
Maginthemoonlight	Tapiture - Moonlight Basin	Warriors Reward	6	0	29,016	0	32,880	61,896
Far Mo Power *	Uncle Lino - J. D. Safari	Peter Giangulio	3	0	31,248	7,812	22,320	61,380
Windsor Gold	Golden Lad - English Mum	Shooting Star Stable	7	0	27,798	0	33,440	61,238
Empress Deona *	Emperor Tiberius - Deona	Richard N. Miller	6	3,960	30,656	7,664	16,480	58,760
Diesel *	Peace and Justice - Really a Gem	Steven W. Young Racing LLC	5	0	29,232	7,308	20,880	57,420
Marion Grace *	Uptowncharlybrown - Angel Food	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	3	0	30,744	6,888	19,680	57,312

*Denotes PA-sired



Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

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September 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS AT PARX RACING

4
Sept

Turning For Home Day

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DJ Tonka will be in attendance.



23
Sept

PA Derby Day / Cotillion

\$1,000,000 Pennsylvania Derby GI

\$1,000,000 Cotillion Stakes GI

\$400,000 Gallant Bob GII

\$250,000 Turf Monster GIII

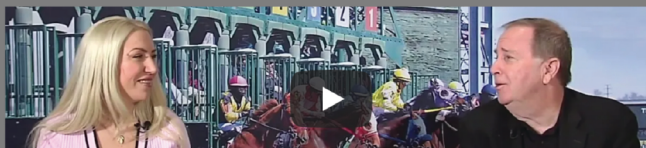
\$200,000 Greenwood Cup



17
Oct

Parx Hall of Fame

\$75,000 M.P. Ballezzi Appreciation Mile



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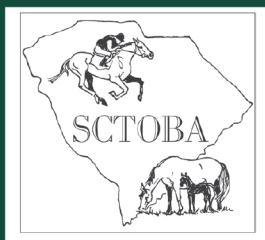
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South Carolina

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023

Racing Across the Nation

Between May 27 and July 17 nine horses who went through the breaking process at South Carolina training centers found their way to the winner's circle following Stakes races.

Two of these horses, Award Wanted and Prerequisite, are graduates of Marcus and Crystal Ryan's program in Aiken. On May 27, Award Wanted broke fastest of all and led gate-to-wire in the Obeah Stakes at Delaware Park. Comfortably in front entering the stretch, she started to drift out but was able to hold off the 2-5 favorite to win by a nose. This was her second stakes win and 10th victory in 35 starts and pushed her earnings to \$487,950.

The Ryans are consignors at 2-year-old sales in Florida and Maryland, selling under their Mason Springs banner. Prerequisite, purchased by the Ryans for \$47,000 as a yearling and sold at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Two-Year-Old in Training Sale last year for \$350,000, won her second race in three career starts when capturing the Wonder Again-G2 at Belmont Park June 11. Fifth out of the gate, she quickly moved up to take the lead, led the field around the track and fought off all challenges to win by a neck.

Irish Boolum raced in a stalking position before surging to the front turning for home in the Friendly Lover Handicap at Monmouth Park, also on June 11. He increased his lead with every stride in the stretch to prove much the best while winning by $8\frac{3}{4}$ lengths at 24-1 odds. Irish Boolum learned his early lessons under the watchful eye of Travis Durr at the Travis Durr Training Center.

On July 1, Three Technique captured her second stakes victory by winning the John A. Nerud Stakes-G2 at Belmont Park. A graduate of the Travis Durr Training Center, Three Technique was bumped coming out of the gate and had only one beat early on. While outside of horses, he kicked into gear at the quarter-pole, took

the lead inside the eighth pole and finished with power, drawing away by $3\frac{3}{4}$ lengths. Three Technique has six wins in 31 career starts with \$808,237 in career earnings.

On the same day, Coconut Cake rallied from 10th and last to prove best in the Jameela Stakes at Laurel Park. Being $11\frac{1}{4}$ lengths behind the leader after a half mile, Coconut Cake gradually began passing horses while on the inside before taking over the lead inside the sixteenth pole and crossing the wire three quarters of a length in front. Coconut Cake went through the breaking process in Aiken under Cary Frommer's care.

Another student of Travis Durr, Chiseler, won his first career stakes in the Dade Park Dash at Ellis Park July 8. Chiseler stayed within a few lengths of the lead during the run down the backside and around the turn in this 6-furlong sprint. He took command at the sixteenth pole and sprinted clear quickly to win by $2\frac{1}{4}$ lengths.

At Horseshoe Indianapolis July 8 in the Snack Handicap, King Ice, who was developed by Franklin "Gore" Smith at his Elloree Training Center, took his time early on when last of 10 for the

opening three-eighths of a mile. Then while four and five wide, he began building momentum and passing horses. King Ice took the lead with a furlong to go and was widening his advantage with every stride, crossing the wire $2\frac{1}{2}$ lengths in front.

Eons was best in the Prince George's County Stakes at Laurel Park on July 15 for the second year in a row. He finished third in this stakes in 2021. Racing three and four wide for the first three-quarters of a mile, Eons put his head in front in the upper stretch. He then lost his advantage but battled back to win by a nose. Eons progressed through the breaking process in Aiken under the direction of Brad Stauffer and Ron Stevens. He has eight wins and \$634,985 in career earnings.

Captain Courtney, another graduate of Cary Frommer's program, won her third race in a row when finishing first in the Malvern Rose Stakes at Presque Isle Downs July 17. Captain Courtney stalked the leaders until approaching the stretch. The outcome was quickly determined when she took control in upper stretch and proved much the best, leaving the field behind her as she crossed the finish line $6\frac{1}{4}$ lengths in front.

Debut Winners

It is always very exciting to see a horse win a maiden special weight first time out. We had eight fillies, colts and geldings emerge from South Carolina to win their debuts between June 30 and July 18. Randy and Kala Rentz were represented by four. Tudox Opportunity, a 3-year-old colt, won June 30 at Penn National. On July 1, Caribbean Pleasure, a 3-year-old gelding, proved best at Charles Town and two days later the 3-year-old filly Calvary Kat won at Presque Isle Downs. The quartet was completed by the 3-year-old gelding Won Small Warrior at Presque Isle Downs July 18.

The Travis Durr Training Center produced Toupie, a 2-year-old maiden special weight winner at Laurel Park July 1, and Always a Warrior, winner of a 2-year-old colt race at the very prestigious Saratoga meet July 16.

Rebekah Hammond, who breaks yearlings in Aiken, saw her graduate, 3-year-old filly Toot Your Horn, win first time out at Monmouth Park July 7.

Marcus and Crystal Ryan's Mason Springs former student, 2-year-old colt Moreno the Gold, found his way to the winner's circle following his debut at Camarero July 8.

Three Wins for Rich Scelfo

SCTOBA board member Rich Scelfo recently won three races as an owner in one week. All three wins took

place at Monmouth Park. On June 2, Ski Country won a starter allowance. The next day, Bunty Windemere proved

best in a claiming race. And Violets Smile became a maiden no more when capturing a maiden special weight June 9.

South Carolina-trained winners

Horse	Training Center	Date	Track	Type of Race
AWARD WANTED	Aiken - Mason Springs	05/27/23	Delaware Park	Obeah S
PREREQUISITE	Aiken - Mason Springs	06/11/23	Belmont Park	Wonder Again S-G2
IRISH BOOLUM	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	06/11/23	Monmouth Park	Friendly Lover S
Writer's Regret	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	06/20/23	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Daufuskie Island	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	06/22/23	Belmont Park	Allowance
Thegirlfromireland	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	06/23/23	Laurel Park	Allowance
Command Central	Ellore Tng Ctr	06/25/23	Hawthorne	Allowance
Royal Suspect	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	06/28/23	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Matt Doyle	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	06/28/23	Finger Lakes	Maiden Special Weight
Dataman	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	06/28/23	Delaware Park	Allowance
Colten Goes	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	06/28/23	Finger Lakes	Maiden Special Weight
Tudox Opportunity	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	06/30/23	Penn National	Maiden Special Weight
Archaic	Aiken - Cary Frommer	06/30/23	Prairie Meadows	Maiden Special Weight
Uncorked	Custom Care-D. Freyer	07/01/23	Monmouth Park	Allowance
THREE TECHNIQUE	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	07/01/23	Belmont Park	John A. Nerud S-G2
Toupie	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	07/01/23	Laurel Park	Maiden Special Weight
Hoist the Gold	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	07/01/23	Ellis Park	Allowance
Caribbean Pleasure	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/01/23	Charles Town	Maiden Special Weight
COCONUT CAKE	Aiken - Cary Frommer	07/01/23	Laurel Park	Jameela S
Mia Bea Star	Aiken - Mason Springs/Legacy Stable	07/02/23	Belmont Park	Allowance
Dream Shake	Aiken - Cary Frommer	07/02/23	Woodbine	Allowance
Calvary Kat	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/03/23	Presque Isle Downs	Maiden Special Weight
Streakin' Easy	Aiken - Cary Frommer	07/03/23	Prairie Meadows	Maiden Special Weight
Maestria	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	07/04/23	Louisiana Downs	Allowance
King Moonracer	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	07/04/23	Belmont Park	Allowance
On the Shortlist	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/05/23	Penn National	Allowance
Pedal to Da Kettle	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/05/23	Belterra Park	Maiden Special Weight
Bella Paloma	Aiken - Cary Frommer	07/05/23	Delaware Park	Maiden Special Weight
Here You Come Again	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	07/07/23	Ellis Park	Maiden Special Weight
Vallelujah	Aiken -Legacy Stable	07/07/23	Belmont Park	Allowance
Toot Your Horn	Aiken - R. Hammond	07/07/23	Monmouth Park	Maiden Special Weight
CHISELER	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	07/08/23	Ellis Park	Dade Park Dash S
Combat Queen	Aiken - Cary Frommer	07/08/23	Laurel Park	Allowance
Moreno the Gold	Aiken-Mason Springs	07/08/23	Camarero	Maiden Special Weight
Jenny's Beignet	Ellore Tng Ctr	07/08/23	Horseshoe Indianapolis	Maiden Special Weight
KING ICE	Ellore Tng Ctr	07/08/23	Horseshoe Indianapolis	Snack H
Addison	Ellore Tng Ctr	07/08/23	Belterra Park	Allowance
Chica Chula	Aiken-Mason Springs	07/09/23	Mountaineer	Maiden Special Weight
Haint Blue	Ellore Tng Ctr	07/09/23	Laurel Park	Maiden Special Weight
Royal Suspect	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	07/11/23	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Big Boys Answer	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/11/23	Parx Racing	Maiden Special Weight
Izzybella	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	07/12/23	Delaware Park	Allowance
Whatsagizmo	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/12/23	Parx Racing	Maiden Special Weight
Paynted Warrior	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/12/23	Presque Isle Downs	Allowance
Missing Fortune	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/12/23	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Organized Chaos	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/13/23	Penn National	Allowance
Malloy	Ellore Tng Ctr	07/13/23	Hawthorne	Allowance
Wicked Finn	Kirkwood Stables	07/14/23	Colonial Downs	Allowance
Ace Up Her Sleeve	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	07/14/23	Colonial Downs	Maiden Special Weight
April Fools Andy	McCutchen Tng Ctr	07/14/23	Delaware Park	Maiden Special Weight
Javistha	Aiken - Cary Frommer	07/14/23	Prairie Meadows	Starter Allowance
Cibolian	Arch Kingsley	07/14/23	Colonial Downs	Maiden Special Weight
Mike J	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	07/15/23	Evangeline Downs	Allowance
EONS	Aiken - Legacy Stable	07/15/23	Laurel Park	Prince George's County S
Askin for a Baskin	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	07/16/23	Laurel Park	Allowance
Always a Warrior	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	07/16/23	Saratoga	Maiden Special Weight
Flying Scotsman	Aiken - Neil Morris	07/16/23	Mountaineer	Allowance
War Smoke	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	07/17/23	Finger Lakes	Maiden Special Weight
Majestic Creed	Aiken - Cary Frommer	07/17/23	Parx Racing	Starter Allowance
CAPTAIN COURTNEY	Aiken - Cary Frommer	07/17/23	Presque Isle	Malvern Rose S
Won Small Warrior	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/18/23	Presque Isle	Maiden Special Weight
Burano	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/19/23	Parx Racing	Allowance



VIRGINIA

SET PIECE SETS STAKES AND COURSE RECORD IN GRADE 1 ARLINGTON MILLION AT COLONIAL DOWNS

Juddmonte's Set Piece powered his way to a course and stakes record of 1:58.19 in the Grade 1 Arlington Million August 12 at Colonial Downs, a 1¼-quarter mile stakes that was held in Virginia for the first time after having all but two of its previous editions at Arlington Park where the prior stakes record had been 1:58.69, set by Awad in 1995.

Under Florent Geroux, Set Piece was allowed to sit at the back of the field of 11 for the first mile of the 10-furlong race before shifting to the outside toward the top of the stretch. The son of Dansili rallied some seven wide in the lane and drew off to win by two lengths over defending champion Santin. It was another half-length back to third-place finisher Adhamo.

Fourth in this race last year when it was contested at Churchill Downs, this year's Million represented the first Grade 1 win for the Brad Cox-trained victor who earned \$582,800 to boost his bankroll to \$1,686,904 while improving his record to 13-2-3 from 29 starts.

FEV ROVER WINS GRADE 1 BEVERLY D AT COLONIAL DOWNS; PUNCHES TICKET TO BREEDERS' CUP FILLY & MARE TURF

Tracy Farmer's Irish-bred Fev Rover earned an automatic berth into the Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf courtesy of a gate-to-wire effort in the \$500,000 Grade 1 Beverly D Stakes, a Breeders' Cup Challenge Win & You're In race, one of two graded under card stakes on the track's inaugural "Festival of Racing" card.

The 5-year-old Gutaifan mare broke sharply from post one in the field of five, slowed the tempo down after gaining control and triggered respective early fractions of :25.12 and :50.10. Fev Rover picked it up at the head of the stretch after a brief challenge from Peter Brant's Gina Romantica and cruised home to a 3½-length triumph in 1:54.35. The win, her fifth overall, pushed her bankroll to \$948,776.

Fev Rover took a solid third most recently in the G1 Diana Stakes at Saratoga finishing just one-half length off the pace, which followed a solid 4-1/2 length score in the G2 Nassau Stakes at



Set Piece and jockey Florent Geroux capture a wide-open Arlington Million at Colonial Downs (Coady Photography).

Woodbine. Javier Castellano, who directed Secretariat Stakes winner Gigante — a Virginia-bred — in the day's other stakes, rode the Beverly D winner for trainer Mark Casse who had three wins on the afternoon. The double Hall of Fame trainer has a stable based in New Kent for the first time.

"When we flew here this morning, Javier and I talked about there not being a lot of speed in the race," Casse said. "Fev Rover is very versatile and she can do whatever you want. If the pace is fast, she can sit back and wait and if it isn't, she'll be in the lead. She's a good horse and that's what good horses do. She could be pushing to be a really good horse. She shows up every time."

"In the Diana, she showed that she belonged," added Casse. "She was dominant in the Nassau and beat a pretty good group but that was only one turn. She came back two weeks after that. Allen Jerkens always told me, 'I don't understand trainers. They want to give them a rest when they're running good. Give them a rest instead when they are running bad,' so I run them. The Diana performance told me she was a Breeders' Cup horse."

DETERMINED KINGDOM REPEATS IN PUNCH LINE STAKES, HIGHLIGHTING A FOUR-PACK OF VIRGINIA-BRED STAKES OPENING WEEKEND AT COLONIAL

D. Hatman Thoroughbreds and Kingdom Bloodstock's Determined Kingdom authored a convincing gate-to-wire victory under Mychel Sanchez in the 5-1/2 furlong, \$125,000 Punch Line Stakes July 15 — one of four turf stakes on the card for Commonwealth-bred and sired horses with purses that totaled \$500,000.

The 4-year-old Animal Kingdom gelding won his fifth career race and pushed his bankroll to \$325,189 with the win. The Phil Schoenthal trainee won the 2022 Punch Line by 5-½ lengths in a rallying effort and captured the 2023 edition by 5-1/4 lengths on the front end.

"He's always been the kind of horse that relaxed off the pace and came on with a rush," said Schoenthal, "But in the last two starts, he was very keen and showed a lot of speed and didn't have his relaxing kind of run. We cut blinkers way back today and felt like that might slow him and relax him but I told Mychel in the paddock that if he



Beverly D winner Fev Rover and jockey Javier Castellano in the Grade 1, \$500,000 Stakes (Coady Photography).



Punch Line winner Determined Kingdom and jockey Mychel Sanchez return to the winners circle (Coady Photography).



Chambeau captures the Gilpin/Petty Stakes July 15 at Colonial with Horacio Karamanos up (Coady Photography).

wants to go, don't fight him. He came out of there running. Mychel had a ton of horse, put him in place and put the field away."

Schoenthal targeted this race early in the year. Coming off an eight-month layoff, Determined Kingdom had two late spring starts in Maryland that resulted in sixth and seventh place finishes.

"He needed a couple starts off the layoff," Schoenthal said. "I didn't have him totally cranked up at Pimlico and thought he would run better at Laurel but didn't feel too bad because the winner in that race set a new track record. It was improvement and I felt that in his third start off the bench, he would improve again. I'm real proud of him. We got him as a yearling and he's been a lot of fun. It's really rewarding when he shows up on a big day."

Larry Johnson's Embolden was second and David Lengel's Uncle Andrew finished third.

Sam English's Chambeau defended her 2022 Tyson Gilpin/Glenn Petty Stakes title by defeating seven other fillies and mares in this year's edition. The 6-year-old Karakontie mare was ridden by Colonial's all-time leading jockey Horacio Karamanos — who had two stakes victories on the card — and left the winners circle with a career bankroll of \$200,300. Chambeau was positioned second through the half, took the lead at the top of the stretch and crossed 3³/₄ lengths the best. The Anthony Aguirre trainee -- who did not start competing until the age of five — is now 3-for-6.

Robert D. Bone and Edward Brown's Carolina Sun finished second and Stonestreet Stables' Aisha R N was third.

Country Life Farm's Galilei angled three-wide from third at the top of the stretch, passed two front runners and hit the wire first, three-quarter lengths the best, in the \$125,000 Brookmeade for fillies and mares at 1-1/16th miles. The 4-year-old daughter of Lemon Drop Kid had her best outing since a maiden breaking turf win at Colonial last summer. Karamanos was in the irons for trainer Michael Trombetta.

Susan Moulton's Tufani was runner-up and Larry Johnson's Continentalcongress finished third.

Six-year-old Flatter gelding Alex Joon, who finished second in last year's Edward P. Evans Stakes, took a step forward in Saturday's Evans with a three-length victory over Reiley McDonald's Passion Play. A field of nine battled one mile in the stake's fifth running and after an inside move from deep in the field early on, trainer Lindsay Schultz's Virginia-bred crossed first with Forest Boyce up top. The victor is owned by Ten Strike Racing, Iapetus Racing and Diamond T Racing's Gigante was third.

CARMELINA, GOING UP CAPTURE \$150,000 VIRGINIA-RESTRICTED DIRT SPRINT STAKES AUGUST 5 AT COLONIAL DOWNS

A pair of Pennsylvania-bred 2-year-olds made their Colonial Downs debut August 5 in a pair of 5-furlong dirt stakes, and both came away

with victories — though they occurred in very different fashion.

Cash is King and LC Racing's Carmelina and Robert and Tammy Klimasewski's Going Up got their pictures taken respectively in the Keswick Stakes for fillies and Hickory Tree Stakes for males.

The former departed from post position eight in a nine-horse field, settled into third after the start then surged on the outside just before the wire to edge Beachfront Breeze and Remember Me.

Robert Reid Jr. trains the winner who is now 2-for-3 with earnings of \$134,800. She dominated while breaking her maiden June 18 at Parx and came to New Kent fresh off a fifth place finish in the Grade 3 Schuylerville Stakes at Saratoga.

"You never expect to win especially asking her to come back for a third start in a month and a half," said Reid. "She shipped all the way from Saratoga just two days ago so it was a lot of work to get here but she came through."

Going Up on the other hand did not need a late rally to capture the Hickory Tree. The Mineshaft gelding went to gate-to-wire in beating seven other freshmen males by a comfortable 6-3/4 lengths in :57.04.

"He's been training well, he's a cool dude and he takes everything in stride," said co-owner Tammy Klimasewski. "Nothing bothers him. He acts like he's been around the world three times. We couldn't ask for a better trainer and rider. We have a great team."

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West Virginia

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

September 2023

The Legacy Lives On

By Jeff Gilleas

"A woman is like a tea bag; you never know how strong it is until it's in hot water." — Eleanor Roosevelt

Horses may come and go in your life, but that special one leaves his hoofprints on your heart forever.

That is how Taylor Mountain Farm stallion manager Meghan Marshall-Lucas and trainer Kristy Petty feel about their recently departed Luftikus. The tone in Meghan's voice, trembling with emotion at times, remembered a horse whose performance on the track, personality, and record at stud was truly a celebration of his life, while Kristy chronicled the achievements of his progeny and their importance to the success of Taylor Mountain Farm.

For many females, it is common to feel limited by others expectations or perceptions. However, these two women, like many others working in the Thoroughbred racing/breeding industry, accept the challenges and double down on their determination and drive in order to accomplish something incredible.

In the last year, the iconic Jefferson County farm has suffered the loss of its founder, James W Casey, his son John Casey, and now one of the pillars of their breeding program. According to Meghan, "Luftikus was symbolic of the kind of stallion Mr. Casey was attracted to,



Jim and Eleanor Casey with Luftikus early in the beloved stallion's successful career at stud.

a combination of physical prowess and compelling pedigree; an endemic contributor to the West Virginia breeding industry gene pool."

Bred by Calumet Farm, Luftikus was a son of Meadowlake out of Andora (a daughter of Horse of the Year Conquistador Cielo and millionaire Sabin). In 10 career starts he was never worse than third, earning \$479,630. Luftikus arrived at Taylor Mountain Farm approximately 20 years ago and until his passing in July was Meghan's favorite stallion.

"He was so good at his job, possessed an intelligence beyond that of an average stallion and treasured having his belly rubbed," said Meghan. "He appeared clairvoyant, at times, as if he anticipated our every move."

Together, Meghan and Kristy have a vision for Taylor Mountain Farm. One as an employee that treasures the legacy of the Caseys and their indelible mark on the Thoroughbred landscape of West Virginia, and the other as John's devoted partner and mother to 15-year-old Allen.

Meghan self-assertively leaned in closer to verbalize her admiration of James W. Casey, his unique gift for storytelling, kind nature and generous manner. "Kristy and I have experienced gut-wrenching

TEACHINTHERELEASE

HOLLYWOOD CASINO
11 CHARLES TOWN DRIVES

John A. Casey, Owner
Kristy Petty, Trainer
Gustavo Larrosa, Jockey
Charles Town, WV

June 24, 2023
4-1/2 Furlongs :52.13

Purse \$30,500
Jazz with Denis (2nd)
Kaylee's Spitfire (3rd)

\$4.40 \$2.60 \$2.20

COADY
Photography
Since 1982

sessions of tears and confronted the heartache of despair," she said. "But anyone involved in the daily training of horses, and the maintenance of a busy farm, realize you must put your big girl pants on and continue to carry on."

She was emphatic in stating that Taylor Mountain Farm, though different now, is still here and functioning as a comparable entity.

Kristy Petty spent 16 years as John's partner, 15 of which sharing parental duties. Her daily routine still revolves around barn 11, where the breeder of record is often John A. Casey, and the owner is KP Racing Stables LLC. Kristy is stabled adjacent to the contingent of Taylor Mountain Farm runners (now competing for Casey's Legacy LLC), and trained by longtime employee/loyal friend to the family, Ronald Sigler.

Recent winner Hessica, a daughter of young Taylor Mountain stallion Juba out of Stefani's Surprise, and more importantly last year's victress of the prestigious Cavada Stakes, has allowed Kristy to step out of the shadow of John and establish her own path.

John was one of the most hard working and good-natured people I've met in my tenure at Charles Town.

He drove an old blue truck for decades and was just as

comfortable on the back of a horse as the bumpy seat of a worn tractor. He preferred to keep his circle of friends modest, and the love of his son justifiably immense. Meghan referred to the phrases uttered on the farm by John as "John-isms."

"He was truly a horse whisperer," said Meghan. "John was the only person with the ability to handle and breed fractious Denis of Cork. Frequently, John spoke of the art of teachintherelease (his method of instructing babies). It was a superior horsemanship skill that he had mastered.

"Kristy has a nice 3-year-old at the track out of stakes winner Romantic Cork, by Denis of Cork, that we named Teachintherelease. In his last four starts, he has one

win and three seconds. John was farmcentric. This was his happy place, and kiddingly would say, if anything ever happens to me just scatter my ashes with the fertilize spreader in the front field."

Family and teamwork are now more important than ever. As Abraham Lincoln said, "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

Thus for Kristy and Meghan, their quest forward is the preservation of Allen's heritage. Fortunately, this teenager responds to the cues handed down by his late father.

"This has been a devastating loss for me, even more so for Allen, who lost his father and best friend," said Kristy. "For now, we stay extremely busy so we don't focus on John's passing; trusting in our opinion, that without Taylor Mountain Farm, a piece of West Virginia racing and breeding is gone, along with Mr. and Mrs. Casey's dream."

Kristy recalled a recent story that gave her goosebumps. "Allen was standing to the side of the trailer watching us attempt to load some young horses. It wasn't going well when he asked for the lead shank, softly uttered leave 'em alone, pet 'em, talked to 'em, teach and release. He glanced in my direction, smiled and said, 'Just do what Dad would do'."

West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association

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Taking the cake

Baking clan Entenmann honored with novice hurdle stakes

By Betsy Burke Parker

Since it first ran at Belmont Park in 2012, the Entenmann stake has graduated some of American 'chasing's best – champion Moscato won the 2 ¼-mile race in 2017, with NSA's 2022 champion Snap Decision winning the race in 2019. Industry insiders know the Entenmann family as owners and breeders – and sometime trainer and rider – of top-quality steeplechase and flat horses.

But for more than a century, the northeast region, later the entire U.S. and, more recently, the world has known them as bakers.

Entenmann's is a real American small business success story. From a one-man operation baking and delivering fresh bread in downtown New York City to a huge commercial baker, Entenmann's has long known the sweet taste of innovation.

At the turn of the century, William Entenmann opened a bake shop in New York City, having learned the art of the dough from his father in Stuttgart, Germany. He worked for another city baker first, opening his own in 1898 on Rogers Avenue in Brooklyn.

Later, William moved his bakery to Bay Shore, Long Island.

Home delivery was a substantial part of his business model, eventually turning into 30 home delivery routes by the time his son, William Jr., took over.

While William Jr. headed the bakery, it flourished; Frank Sinatra was a weekly customer.

William Jr. died in 1951, leaving the



Trainer Jonathan Sheppard with long-time clients Tina and Bill Entenmann of Timber Bay Farm in 1997. ©Deirdre Davie / NSA Archives

bakery to his wife Martha and their sons, Robert, Charles and William. The family phased out bread in order to focus on pastries and cakes, and began supplying grocery stores rather than offering home delivery.

In 1959, the Entenmann family invented the "see-through" cake box used by many bakeries today.

In 1961, the business grew, with new bakeries and factories in New Jersey, and Connecticut. Charles helped turn the company into a nationally known symbol of sweetness.

In 1972, Entenmann's started to sell chocolate chip cookies, and has since sold more than 620 million. Entenmann's has sold more than 700 million of their all-butter loaf cakes.

The pharmaceutical company Warner-Lambert purchased Entenmann's in 1978 and then sold it to General Foods in

1982.

General Foods merged with Kraft in 1990.

Kraft General Foods sold its bakery business to CPC International, later Bestfoods, in 1995.

Bestfoods was purchased by Unilever in 2000, which sold its baking division to George Weston, a Canadian baked goods and supermarket business, the following year.

Weston sold its United States interests, including Entenmann's, in 2008 to Mexican conglomerate Grupo Bimbo.

Other Bimbo Bakeries USA holdings include Thomas', Brownberry, Boboli, Arnold, Oroweat, Freihofer's and Stroehmann.

Entenmann's licensed their first non-edible product in 2008 with the sale of scented candles. The candles were scented as coffee cake, all-butter loaf cake and raspberry Danish. Other scents such as pumpkin pie and warm gingerbread were added for the holidays, and chocolate chip cookie was made available in 2009.

In 2012, Entenmann's partnered with White Coffee Corporation for a new collection of flavored coffees and cocoa. The 100% arabica coffee is sold at Burlington Coat Factory, Dollar Tree and Entenmann's Outlets.

Entenmann racing link – Timber Bay Farm on Long Island

William Entenmann III was breeder of 2002 Belmont Stakes winner Sarava and campaigned multiple graded stakes winner

and 2005 Breeders Cup mile winner Artie Schiller.

Timber Bay's other top runners included grade I steeplechase winners Bisbalense and Romantic, plus other jumping stars Slew's Peak and Yaw.

Entenmann passed away in 2011.

Son William Entenmann IV was a flat trainer and had a brief career as a jockey. He trained a couple dozen horses that ran over hurdles in the 1990s.

The O'Brien connection

Legendary New York horseman Leo O'Brien won the last jump race held at Aqueduct prior to the 2022 fall meet, a high-priced allowance on July 24, 1974 with Ray Guest's Argentine-bred Afilador. The favorite pressed a hot pace, according to the chart, jumping well over the big stuffed brush and rallying to match strides with early leader Cold Iron at the head of the stretch.

O'Brien, 83 and retired on Long Island, took time to remember the heyday of New York racing. He says he remembers riding over fences at Aqueduct and that the city racetrack actually holds a very special place in his racing trajectory.

"In the 1960s, they had both a hurdle and brush course (at Aqueduct.) The first brush race I watched was (a maiden) at Aqueduct. A new fence builder had rebuilt the fences very stiff, and all the horses that ran had been running at the hunt meets during the spring.

"I believe 11 horses started but only four finished. Incidentally, (eventual trainer) Jimmy Murphy and Albert Foot retired after getting hurt in that race.

"My first jump winner was also at Aqueduct, in 1964 – a Raymond Guest horse called My Passion. He'd been (work-partner) for Epsom Derby winner Larkspur and was a very fast horse.

"I remember how (eventual Hall of Fame rider) Paddy Smithwick would drive us from Belmont to Aqueduct for the jump days, and sometimes there was a jump race every day of racing there. It was part of the racing fabric in New York.

"But one of my best memories about riding at Aqueduct was Chicken Sadie. She was an old African American lady that made the best fried chicken. She'd set up her stand in the tunnel at Aqueduct and all the jockeys would buy fried chicken from her after the races.

"She never set a price. The jocks would give her whatever money they could on any



Bruton Street's Proven Innocent won the 2022 running of the William Entenmann Novice Hurdle Stake at Aqueduct.

©Tod Marks

particular day."

What's going on at Belmont?

The New York Racing Association is building vehicle and pedestrian tunnels to the Belmont Park infield, instead moving the Belmont Park fall meet to Aqueduct. Belmont at the Big A features 23 graded events among 41 stakes worth \$9.9 million through October.

The tunnels are a major capital improvement project that will unlock the 45-acre infield at Belmont Park.

"This investment in the future of Belmont Park will transform our racing operations and pave the way for a broader re-imagining of the facility," said NYRA president Dave O'Rourke in a release. "The shift to Aqueduct this fall will minimize the overall impact on the racing schedule, and ensure continuity for the Belmont spring-summer meet and Belmont Stakes."

"There'd been a high focus on major track racing in the '50s and '60s," recalls National Steeplechase Association racing secretary Bill Gallo. "In 1970, there were 83 jump races at New York major tracks," evenly distributed between Aqueduct, Belmont and Saratoga, with more than \$800,000 in purses.

"That was the peak, but it fell off the next few years dramatically – 57 races in 1971, 17 in 1972.

"It was an internal decision by NYRA to trim their program, and the (then-called National Steeplechase and Hunt Association) focus went from the major tracks to the hunt meets."

The Big A – Tidbits

Aqueduct Racetrack opened September 27, 1894 on property that belonged to the old Brooklyn Water Works. The waterworks was a conduit that brought water from the

vast Hempstead Plain on rural eastern Long Island to the Ridgewood reservoir in New York City.

The New York Racing Association was formed in 1955 when the Greater New York Association acquired the assets of four separate racing associations operating Belmont, the old Jamaica course, Saratoga and Aqueduct. Aqueduct closed in 1956, reopening September 14, 1959, after \$34 million of renovations designed by noted racetrack architect Arthur Froehlich of the firm Arthur Froehlich and Associates of Beverly Hills, California. Jamaica closed that same year, the land sold for development.

- Aqueduct occupies 210 acres of prime real estate in South Ozone Park in the borough of Queens, just eight miles east of Belmont Park. Aqueduct's nearest neighbor is JFK airport.
- At seven furlongs, Aqueduct's inner turf is almost identical to Saratoga, slightly smaller and tighter than Belmont Park's grass course.
- The Big A was home to one of racing's landmark events – the only triple dead heat in stakes history when Brownie, Bossuet and Wait a Bit hit the wire as one in the Carter Handicap on June 10, 1944.
- Recent improvements include a winterized dirt track installed in 2017, with the new inner turf course unveiled in 2018.
- Racing is usually held at Aqueduct from October to May. This year the course takes over Belmont's fall meet dates as well.
- In 2007, racing at Aqueduct was in jeopardy when reports indicated that then-New York Governor Eliot Spitzer was considering selling the facility to developers when the New York Racing Association lease expired at the end of that year.

State representative Audrey Pheffer, a democrat whose district includes Aqueduct, fought the closing of the track, which she felt was important to the local community. A deal was made to add a casino to the facility which protected the racetrack from being erased from history.

- The Big A has its own New York City subway station, Aqueduct Racetrack, served by the IND Rockaway Line, A train. There is one platform on the Brooklyn-bound side, requiring southbound travelers to transfer to a northbound train at the Aqueduct-North Conduit Avenue station a few blocks south.

— Classifieds —

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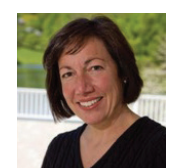
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— Looking Back —

75 years ago

■ The death of jockey Benny Leggett at Maryland's Cumberland half-mile track rocked the racing world, and members of the press were clamoring to find fault, particularly with the Maryland Racing Commission. One of the main points of contention was whether Leggett's mount, 12-year-old Alpine Boy, was fit to race. Alpine Boy, who bolted through a fence while trailing in last, had on two previous occasions been barred at Charles Town when suspected to be blind. Veterinarians at Cumberland declared him fit to race. In between being barred, Alpine Boy had won several races at other tracks.

Following the spill, Leggett was treated at the track's first-aid room and released when it appeared he was not seriously hurt. Later that night he was rushed to the local hospital and, when no doctor was immediately available, he died. He left a wife and young daughter.

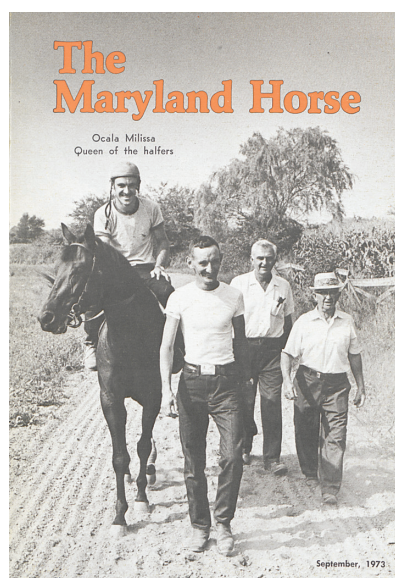
It was hoped the sad scenario would produce a tightening of supervision of horses, as to their fitness, and a follow-through system to make sure that anyone injured during racing would receive close attention until entirely out of danger.

■ Maryland's favorite daughter, Gallorette, made three appearances at the Saratoga meeting, winning two – the Wilson Mile and, one week later, the Whitney at 1½ miles. William Brann and his wife,

summer residents of the upstate New York town, were in attendance to watch their all-time money-winning mare.

■ Larry MacPhail was one of Maryland's leading buyers at the Saratoga yearling sale, picking up two fillies for a combined \$24,500. They were "daughters of *Easton and *Beau Pere, the dams being the great mare Warrior Lass and Reigh Grey, a sister to Count Fleet. Truly a good foundation for a stud farm in years to come."

*War East, the daughter of *Easton, foaled a *Heliopolis filly at MacPhail's Bel Air, Md., farm in 1954 (her third foal). Named Iberia, she was the dam of Hall of Famer Riva Ridge and two other stakes winners and Broodmare of the Year in 1971.*



Ocala Milissa and exercise rider James Hoff return from a gallop around the cornfield with 77-year-old breeder/owner/trainer Vernon Krebs (right), who is joined by John Totura and Norman Hoff.

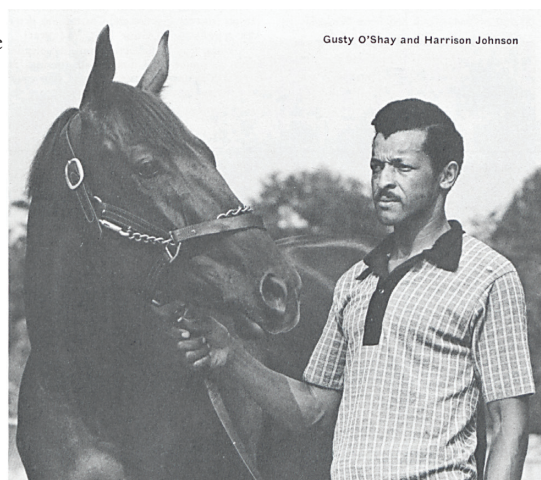
50 years ago

■ At age 72 Vernon Krebs took out his trainer's license, and five years later enjoyed the best winning percentage in 1973 of any trainer in America – six starts and six wins, all from his one-horse stable, Ocala Milissa, whom he also bred. His modest dwelling

gave no suggestion of being the headquarters for a horse breeding and racing operation. Krebs even put in his own training track around his cornfield. When asked the circumference, Krebs replied, "Five times around equals 2 miles if you pull up at the willow tree."

■ Maryland-bred 2-year-old Gusty O'Shay, bred by owner Mrs. G. Tyson Hopkins of Great Falls, Va., and trained by West Virginian Harrison Johnson, unexpectedly galloped to fame in Saratoga's Hopeful Stakes at Saratoga. Beaten in his first two claiming races, and out of a \$2,500 mare bred on a free service to first-year Maryland sire Rose Argent, Gusty O'Shay added his name to Hopeful greats Man o' War, Whirlaway, Native Dancer, Nashua, Buckpasser and Secretariat.

■ An excerpt from economist Dr. Robert G. Lawrence's book on data behind the Maryland racing industry read, "The economic impact of horse racing is more than 10 times as important to Maryland as is generally considered. Its economic



contribution is not limited to one of its most visible aspects – the pari-mutuel tax on wagering . . . Those who know racing often note the similarity of this industry to an iceberg – nine-tenths is out of sight. In 1970, although pari-mutuel taxes paid to the state exceeded \$14 million, these taxes made up only 8.6 percent of the \$163 million cash flow of this industry."

■ Nonoalco, a 2-year-old son of recently deceased Maryland stallion Nearctic, rose to the top of the European juvenile standings when he captured France's Prix Morny, defeating the previously unbeaten Maryland-bred filly Lianga.

25 years ago

■ The landscape of New Jersey Thoroughbred racing looked to change drastically when Greenwood Racing Inc., parent company of Philadelphia Park, its off-track wagering sites and telephone wagering operations, announced it had entered an agreement to lease and operate Garden State Park for seven years. The lease was part of an agreement Greenwood struck with International Thoroughbred Breeders, which included the acquisition of Freehold Raceway in Freehold, N.J., for \$45 million.

Less than three years later Garden State Park ran its last race and has since been developed.

■ Major summer stakes in the region included a shocker in the Delaware Handicap-G3, when longshots Amarillo, Tuxedo Junction and (109-1) Timely Broad rounded out the top three spots after favorites Relaxing Rhythm and Eclipse Award champion Ajina faded. Amarillo, trained by Monmouth Park-based John Forbes, paid \$85.80 to win; the trifecta returned a staggering \$29,088.

Laurel's Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash-G2 went to Hobeau Farm's sprint-division leader Kelly Kip, who set a stakes record for trainer Allen Jerkens.

The Haskell went to a reformed Coronado's Quest. Bred and co-owned by Maryland resident Stuart Janney III and trained by Shug McGaughey, the son of 1988 Haskell winner Forty Niner was believed too psychologically unstable to go to the Kentucky Derby-G1, but turned things around that summer, defeating, among others, Belmont Stakes-G1 winner Victory Gallop.

■ Rychill Farm's multimillionaire Awad was retired to stand at stud at Northview Stallion Station in Chesapeake City, Md. The son of Caveat had a seven-year campaign in which he won four Grade 1s, finished among the top three in 30 stakes, 23 graded, set course records at Saratoga (which still stands) and Arlington Park (never broken), and earned \$3,270,818 from 70 starts. Evidence of the company he was keeping: in 1996 he was winless in 11 starts, yet earned \$770,786.

■ Jersey Girl maintained a perfect 3-year-old record (7-for-7) and won her third Grade 1 in a row in Saratoga's Test Stakes. Bred in New Jersey by Mac Fehsenfeld and sold as a 2-year-old for \$220,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Florida February sale to trainer Todd Pletcher, the daughter of New Jersey-bred star Belong to Me scored in the Acorn and Mother Goose in her previous two starts.

Exiting the Test with slab fracture, Jersey Girl was expected to run the next year but was sidelined again and retired. A finalist for an Eclipse Award, she was the 1998 New Jersey-bred Horse of the Year, and later produced Cigar Mile-G1 winner Jersey Town.

■ Glenview Farm's Prime Legacy – who raced for a \$2,500 claiming price on the flat in 1993 and a \$10,000 tag over jumps in 1994 – upset the Midsummer Hurdle Handicap at Delaware Park for his first win in more than a year. Glenview's owner, Doris Rabon, originally purchased Prime Legacy to be a show horse after his uneventful flat career, but after taking a closer look at his breeding, she decided to give him a try over hurdles.

■ Hookedonthefeelin was a star on the rise after her 4-length victory in Hollywood Park's Grade 2 Landaluce Stakes. Said her rider Gary Stevens, "I haven't had a 2-year-old win like that since Serena's Song." Owned by Mike Pegram and trained by Bob Baffert, the chestnut daughter of Maryland sire Citidancer was bred in Maryland by a partnership consisting of Country Life Farm, Joseph Flaherty and Helen Wells, who sold her as a weanling at the 1996 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December Mixed sale for \$38,000.

10 years ago

■ The Scatuorchio family of New Jersey, led by patriarch Jim Scatuorchio, celebrated Verrazano's victory in New Jersey's biggest race, the Grade 1 Haskell Invitational held at Monmouth. Trained by Todd Pletcher, Verrazano, a son of Scatuorchio-owned More Than Ready, crossed the wire 9¾ lengths in front of Bob Baffert's Power Broker, making it the largest winning margin in Haskell history.

With deep ties to the track and the state, the Scatuorchio family's Let's Go Stable donated a portion of the horse's earnings to The Foundation to Save the Jersey Shore Inc., as many were still recovering from Hurricane Sandy.

■ On a hot day met with large crowds, two-time champion Royal Delta romped to her second consecutive Delaware Handicap, upgraded to Grade 1 for its 76th renewal. Her 10¾-length margin was the largest in race history. Questions surfaced before the race as to whether taking Besilu Stables' mare off Lasix would cause her downfall, but the Bill Mott trainee proved it didn't matter one bit.

■ Rockport Harbor, the region's leading sire, was euthanized at New Bolton Center Aug. 2 following complications of laminitis. The 11-year-old son of Unbridled's Song was owned by Darley, where he stood before being moved to Pin Oak Lane Farm in New Freedom, Pa., for the 2013 breeding season.

He had been booked to more than 100 mares his only season in the region.

■ After nine years of competition, 58 starts, eight Maryland-bred championship titles, three graded stakes wins (seven stakes in all) and \$1,301,698, 11-year-old Heros Reward was retired by owners Bob Haynes' Rob Ry Farm and Jayne Marie Slys and trainer Dale Capuano.

"A lot of people use the expression 'he's one in a million' – he's not one in a million," said Haynes. "You never claim a 4-year-old horse for \$20,000 out of a non-winners of two race and go on and win \$1.3 million. The odds are about as slim as hitting the lottery or getting struck by lightning. It's more like one in 50 million."

— Past Time —



Distance Pedigree

On May 13, 1973, Sally O'Connor and her sons, Brian (13) and David (11) left White's Ferry in Potomac, Md., on horseback for a 3½-month cross-country ride to Oregon. They crossed the Snake River into Oregon Aug. 26. Photographer Skip Ball caught up to the O'Connors at various points along the way and *Horse Play* (a publication started by the Maryland Horse Breeders Association) chronicled the trip. David O'Connor went on to a long career as an event rider, trainer, coach and industry leader, while Brian became the "voice" of eventing as an announcer. Sally O'Connor was inducted into the U.S. Eventing Hall of Fame in 2022.

Walter M. "Skip" Ball was an award-winning staff photographer for *Maryland Horse* magazine from the mid-1960s to the late 1980s. His children donated his work to the Maryland Horse Breeders Association several years ago, and the photographs are part of the Maryland Horse Library as the Skip Ball Collection. In the next stages of our archiving projects, Ball's films and slides will be digitized to preserve this gifted photographer's legacy.

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